Close Range Moose — Autumn Northerns — Coons All Over

ALDEN REYNOLDS
KETTLE RIVER MINN 55757

FUR-FISH-GAME

ing's Magazine

OCTOBER 1971 35¢

No. 2

in a series of Browning Hunting Tips

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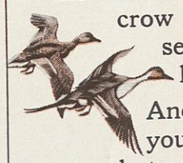
Ducks can become extremely wary and decoy-shy after they've been shot at a few times. They'll take a long, hard look at any decoy set-up that looks the least bit suspicious. But if you place a few crow decoys in a nearby tree or bush, ducks seem to be reassured and drop in with less hesitation.



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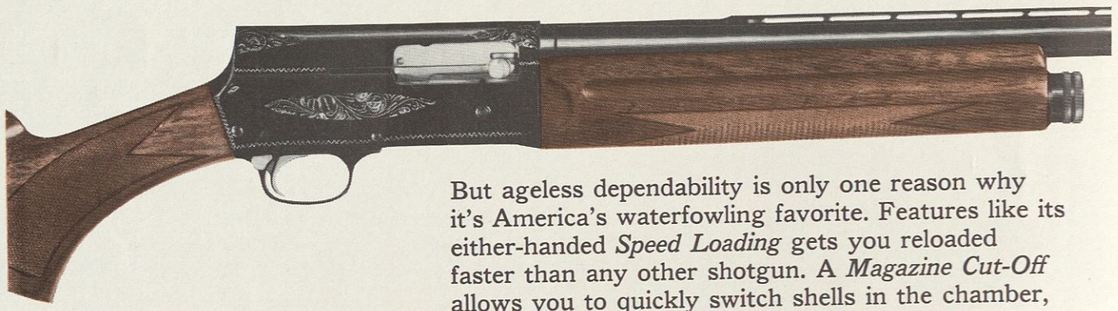

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by DICK KOTIS
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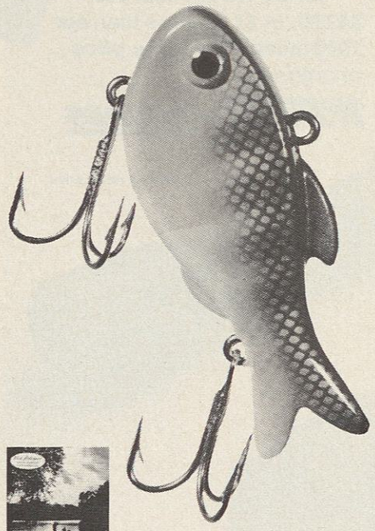

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Camping & Travel

By Hank Andrews

Write for Free Info.

IF you are not jumping at the opportunity to get free fishing, hunting and camping information from your state or province, then you are missing out on some good tips that may improve your outdoor trips.

I never cease to marvel at the free material that can be obtained by writing a postcard or note to your state conservation agency. And I think you should start with a note to your own state and find out what is available.

You'll be surprised at the material you can get.

If you're looking for a place to hunt, the chances are that your state has free pamphlets or maps that can aid you.

I've been looking over some material that is available. Nebraska, for instance, offers a 46-page magazine type folder that is packed with tips on upland game hunting and also big game. This is just one of many pamphlets from that state.

Ohio, which does not have too good a reputation as a hunting state, can give you maps of various hunting areas; special booklets on turkey, grouse and pheasants. Also, there are special pamphlets on fishing and camping.

Indiana has detailed descriptions of its game management areas along with excellent maps. Iowa has a number of pamphlets describing top game species.

And so it goes. I advise you to write to your own state first and find out what is available.

One reason that I am suggesting you do this now is that states soon may be cutting down on the free information they provide. The cost of printing and distributing the material is becoming too high.

Just recently, I received a note from Wisconsin that it was playing down the availability of free pamphlets. The demand was too high and the cost was great.

You may have noticed this fact in the fishing and hunting manufacturers catalogs. Once they were free, but now these manufacturers are finding out they have to charge for them to cover the cost of postage and printing in part. Otherwise, catalog costs would be prohibitive.

Most states offer free information on hunting. Ohio has a guide to public areas that offer pheasant hunting.

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This is the time of the year when fall camping may be at its greatest. You have bright colors, cool nights and wonderful days. It is a time that a man should be afield to hunt or fish or to do some loafing.

A good state to visit, Arkansas is moving to the fore as an attractive region for fishing, hunting and camping.

There are eighteen state parks, for instance. And there is camping at each with such deluxe facilities as hot showers, electric connections and rest rooms. At five of them there are coin laundries.

In addition, there are three National Park Forests, more than 70 lakes and many Wildlife Management Areas. In Ouachita National Forest are eighteen campgrounds. Ozark National Forest has nineteen and St. Francis National Forest has two. Rounding out the total to 40 is Gulpha Gorge in Hot Springs National Park.

Developed in a wide variety of topographic locations, you will find campgrounds in the Deltas of east Arkansas, the northern mountain regions and in the south. Regardless of where you choose to pitch your tent or park a trailer, you will find a lakeside campground in almost every nook of the state.

Arkansas also provides primitive, day camping areas as well as such municipally developed campgrounds as one

(Continued on page 28)

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Conservation

By William Hilts

The 'Slob Hunter'

'HUNTING Threatened'—that was the headline on our July writing and its sobering contents telling of a nationwide attack that is being organized to severely control and eventually eliminate the sport, generated tremendous interest among our readers. We received queries from other writers, sportsmen's clubs, housewives, government leaders and just plain interested sportsmen.

The organized drive to stamp out hunting isn't our only threat however, but we also have a most serious challenge right within our own ranks. John Madson, well known writer and head of the Conservation Department for Winchester Western tells us that in his opinion, the deadliest foe to hunting is not the anti-hunter, even though that threat is very real, it is instead the "slob hunter!" That's the irresponsible character who is making the responsible hunter a "bum" in the eyes of many misinformed citizens. He's the game poacher, defiler of landscape, enemy of landowners, wanton killer, the arrogant slob who makes his own rules. The man who alarms the common citizen and offends public decency. And in John's opinion, "he is the greatest single wrong in hunting today!"

"The anti-hunting moralist is bad enough," John says, "knowing little or nothing about game and hunting, he feels morally qualified to condemn the men who do. But, when the hunter over-reacts to this anti-hunting moralist, as he usually does, it may be because he knows the moralist is partly right. The ethical hunter feels anger and frustration at being forced to share the stigma of the 'slob hunter.' As his sport is dirtied, so is he, for all hunters are tarred with the same brush."

Madson continues, noting that, "it's hard to wipe out the 'slob hunters' by legislation, for that might be in the form of offensive 'blue' laws! Social pressure is a better control. Of course, we already have many social taboos that are broken by people with no regard for civilized behavior and it's especially easy to break a hunting taboo because the hunter is often alone, and may not even be sure of the rights and wrongs of hunting. However, it is possible to build strong taboos against slob hunting, if they make sense and appeal to the hunter's pride and sentiment.

Indiana Sportsmen Act

The Northern Indiana Hunters Assn. responded to the anti-hunting crisis and they too realize the great problem which exists with the "slob hunter." As

(Continued on page 32)

Maintaining a friendly farmer-sportsman relationship is all important, especially with the hunter. Offer to help him post land, purchase some of his produce, etc. and you'll always have a place to enjoy the great out-of-doors. Photo by Don Cook.

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CLOSE RANGE MOOSE

By KEN MITCHELL

THE second morning of my moose hunt found me still somewhat vague as to the exact procedure to use in order to enveigle a bull moose out of the bush and within firing range of my rifle. I had started out the morning before in a canoe, carrying with me a tent, a sleeping bag and groceries for four or five days. I had covered fourteen miles the first day, and the morning of the second had found me camped that distance southwest of Manitouwadge, a small Canadian mining community North of Lake Superior.

It was good moose country. I had just arrived in the area a few weeks before, and although I was to stay there for five years, at the time the only decision I was capable of making concerned bagging one of these big-game animals, which weigh up to a half ton apiece in some parts of the country, and are of a heft and size which make them by far the largest members of the deer family.

I knew nothing of the animal's habits, at the time, either of feeding or mating, and so I had resolved just to paddle the shorelines of the lakes and interconnecting waterways within reach, hoping to meet one, more by accident than by design.

Shortly after breaking camp that morning, and after travelling for about an hour, I came across two hunters from Ohio who were bound on a mission identical to mine.

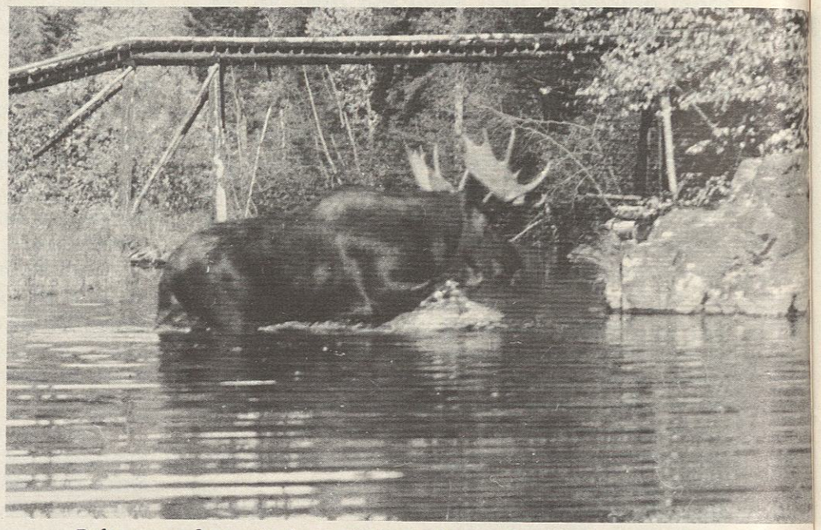
We chatted for a while and during the course of the conversation I revealed that I had grown up in the southern areas of the province, and hadn't hunted moose before, but that I intended to correct my lack of experience in the matter within the next few days.

The two hunters brought out moose-calls cut from birch-bark, and began explaining their use. The bell of the call, one of them indicated, should be three and a half times larger than the end through which you call.

The call itself consisted only of the letters "e-u-r," slurred, and made to sound a lot like a barnyard cow bawling for her calf. This was the call of the cow moose in an amorous mood, I was told, and the bull, if he were agreeable, and believed the suggestion to be authentic, would reply with a very quiet "ooo-wha". This would conclude the verbal overtures. The bull would soon come out of the bush and into the calling area, if he were going to come out at all.

We parted company, and I paddled southward for the remainder of the morning, down the lake and through a stretch of river to another small, unnamed lake, where I set up camp on an island near the shore and practiced moose calls for a few hours with my newly-rolled birch-bark call. I lolled around during the tail-end hours of the afternoon, and then I rolled into my sleeping bag in the early evening, in a strangely expectant mood. Although I wasn't to get a bull moose the next day, I was to have an unusual encounter with one.

The following morning dawned clear and crisp, a perfect day for the latter part of September in the Northern woods.



Before you select a site from which to call, consider that the moose could come from any direction.

I paddled back up the river beyond the lake on which I was camped, and eased the nose of my canoe into the mild current of a small tributary to the river. I journeyed up-current on the tributary for about a mile, until I came to a long, narrow marsh which straddled the stream. Stepping out of the canoe, I walked a dozen paces or so to the edge of the forest. I glanced at the call uncertainly for a few moments, and then I gave a quiet bellow.

The answer came almost immediately.

"Ooo-wha."

I waited patiently for about ten minutes. I hadn't learned then that the bull would sometimes take up to a half an hour to appear, or longer, if he appears at all. Some bulls, especially the older ones, become suspicious, and reconnoitre, and catching the odor of human scent, refuse the invitation entirely. This often happens.

But this one came out, all right.

I had taken my rifle and had walked about 300 yards

If a moose comes out of a bush this thick, there will not be much time for a shot.

up-stream along the side of the marsh when he came out of the forest, exactly on my calling site, feeling almost thankful that I wasn't there to greet him as he arrived.

It sounded like a horse neighing, at first, only more of a high, wild scream than a neigh. The moose was out, and in a fighting mood, that was a conclusion I could reach without thinking too much. Branches were breaking back there, big ones. I could hear the heavy cloven hooves pounding the ground, the sound of tree limbs being smashed to pulp, and the repeated high, screaming neigh of the bull as he rampaged around through the place where I had called.

Dumbfounded, I could only listen, and surmise that this was one animal who had no fear of human scent. He had been brought out anticipating a cow moose. There was only the scent of man left behind by a solitary hunter—a hunter who was listening with ascending apprehension to the blood-curdling screaming and squealing coming from the bush by the edge of the marsh.

As I stood there, I began to wonder if a high-powered rifle would stop an animal so inflamed with hate.

"What was wrong with him?", I began wondering. It couldn't have been that big a disappointment, I thought.

Apparently it could, and was.

I worried about my canoe, next. Would it be smashed into splinters along with the rest of the forest around it by the seemingly inexhaustible fury which this animal was expressing?

The stream meandered slightly, and there were several curves in its course between me and all the activity. Just as I had resolved to start moving toward the moose, it became suddenly quiet and still.

When I got back to the calling area, I found a sizeable patch of the forest trampled down. As I surveyed the damage, respect for the bull moose grew in me, respect for an animal that will, and has, charged diesel locomotives without any more provocation than the sounding of the horn by the locomotive engineer attempting to clear him off of the track.

I didn't know it then, but I was getting a taste of one aspect of the moose's character that the majority of hunters seldom encounter. Like any wild animal, he can be mean, and unpredictable. Many experienced woodsmen say that if you're going to fear any animal in the woods, better to fear a bull moose at close range in the mating season, or a cow with calves in the spring, both sexes being potentially more dangerous than a black bear in a show-down, although the black bear in itself isn't considered dangerous at all by many of the semi-initiated, until perhaps they get chased by one, which has happened several times up here recently, once to myself. I made good time over fairly rough ground.

Later in the afternoon of the same day, I heard the same high, eerie squealing sounds again, coming from the far side of a bend in the river I was negotiating. There was a guide there, with a client, and the guide was smashing trees and underbrush with a piece of wood, stamping and crashing around in the bush, and generally screaming like a wild mustang as he did.

He was obviously imitating the sounds of combat, hoping that another bull would come out to join in the fray, lured by the desire to test his strength and the vision of a waiting cow nearby being fought over by two rivals already at the scene of the dispute.

I backed off, of course, not wanting to interfere, but I never forgot this method of calling moose, and was to use it several years later, near Gogama, west of Manitouwadge, while on a visit there in the fall.

It had been a long day on a bush road North of Gogama when, casually, I thought of that guide, and of his production of moose-battle effects in the bush Southwest of Manitouwadge. I decided to try it.

I stood on the bush road, as dusk approached, hemmed in on both sides by forest growth so thick that visibility into it was limited to about twenty feet.

I gave the bawling sound of a cow, waited for five minutes or so, and then called again. Almost immediately, I gave the call of a bull answering, and then, muting the call, and turning it away, I gave the call again of a bull moose hoping that the two calls would sound dissimilar, as though they had come from two bulls who had been in the surrounding area, but unaware of one another's presence until the cow had called.

I gave a loud scream through the call, and then answered the scream twice, and then began trampling around in the bush by the trail, breaking dead, fallen branches underfoot, giving high, squealing sounds through the birch-bark call, slamming trees with a heavy stick and creating what I hoped was a proclamation of mayhem in moose jargon.

I stopped briefly for breath, and then I heard him coming. He was coming on the run, I could tell that by the sounds he was making as he came through the forest, for a moose can run through thick forest, dodging and weaving with his great, fanning rack around objects that he can't plough under, and ploughing under everything else, and this was the way he was coming as he crashed through the bush in my direction.

I stepped out onto the middle of the trail, growing more concerned than I had that day back in the bush below Manitouwadge. He was going to come out right on top of me, I judged, and he would be moving pretty fast. I would only have about 30 or forty feet in which to shoot as he came bursting out of the forest cover. Almost unconsciously, I levelled my rifle at my hip and simultaneously backed off down the road a few feet.

Just then the oncoming moose came highballing through a covey of grouse about forty yards from the road. A half dozen grouse came speeding pell-mell through the branches of the trees overhead, peeping and fluttering as they put distance between themselves and the advancing moose.

(Continued on page 34)

This one offers a rare open shot.

BUSHYTAIL KNOW-HOW

By DAVE BOWRING

I KEPT STARING at the spot, half-sure that it was only another bump on the oak tree. The sun wasn't up yet, and remained only a faint glow in the sky beyond a wooded ridge across the valley before me. The predawn woods were cold, and I settled a little deeper into the camouflage jacket I was wearing.

Finally the spot I was watching moved a couple of inches, and I snapped alert, raising my rifle and trying to find the movement in my 4x scope. Then the squirrel moved to the other side of the oak, and I relaxed. Up the ridge I could hear Roger getting comfortable in a stand of beeches he had chosen for a stand.

I'm a former resident of Ohio, and hunted these same ridges every fall for squirrels until a job as assistant editor of a travel magazine took me away from the hills and woods of the Buckeye State. My brother-in-law, Roger Moyer, had finally pried me loose from my job long enough to return to southern Ohio for a bushytail hunt east of Cincinnati.

There are several methods of squirrel hunting, each of them productive under certain circumstances. We were using what is probably the most popular one, which required getting into an area known to hold a good bushytail population before the coming dawn brought the squirrels out to feed. Roger had hunted this area for six years in the past, ever since I introduced him to the area on a crow-gunning expedition. Ever since then he makes several hunts into the area during Ohio's squirrel season, and now knows the area as well or better than I do.

About that time the morning stillness was splintered by the sharp crack of Roger's .22 Savage, followed by two sounds that told the story as well as if I'd seen it myself. A few seconds after the report died away I heard the leaf-cushioned plop of a squirrel dropping from a tree near Roger's stand, then the scrabbling of claws on treebark. Then silence again settled over the woods.

I shifted position a bit, trying to keep one eye peeled for the squirrel playing peek-a-boo with me in the oak, and the other on the lookout for the second squirrel in Roger's location. I didn't have long to wait.

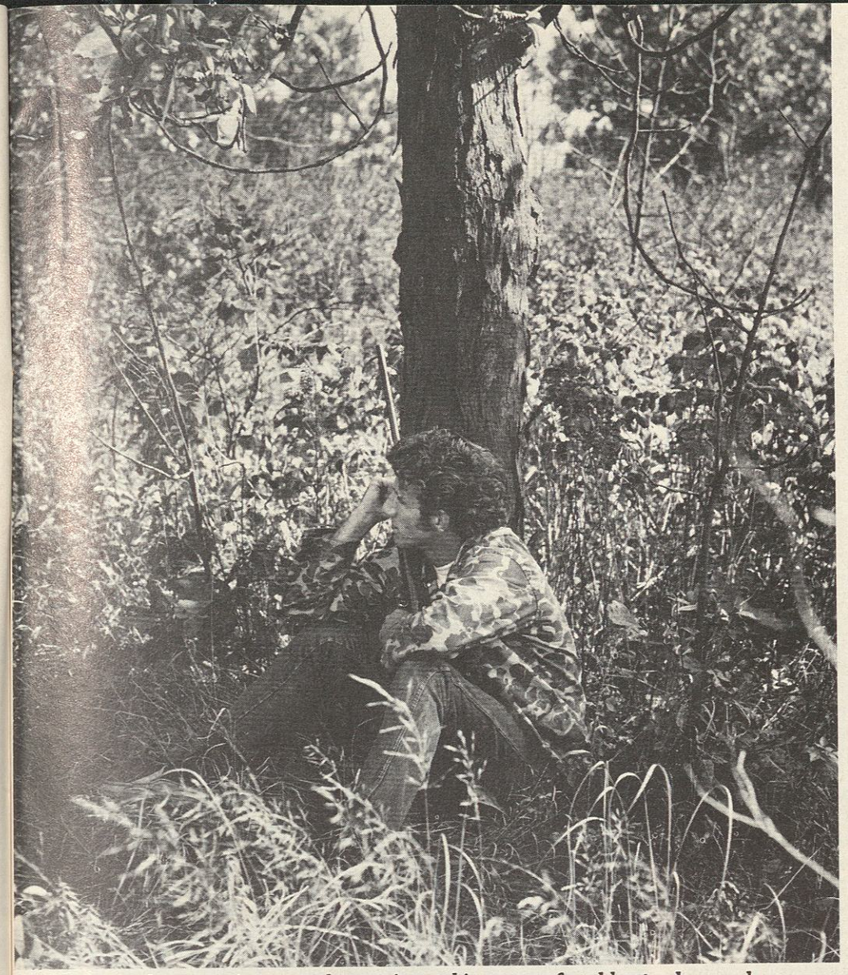
There was more noise from up the ridge, then the swish of leaves as the squirrel left its den tree, fleeing from the activity near Roger. A moment later the squirrel appeared on my side on one of the beeches, pausing to look the new situation over before leaving its cover. I slowly raised my Remington semiautomatic, settled the crosshairs on the animal's head, and squeezed the trigger. The report of the rifle hadn't yet died when there was another satisfying plop on the mat of leaves covering the ground.

The squirrel I had been watching in the oak froze for a moment, then dashed out on a limb and out of sight in a distant grove of white oaks. Roger's subdued voice came wafting down the hill.

"I think that's it for this location. You ready to move?"

I answered in the affirmative, and we left our stands and retrieved our kills. My slug had taken the squirrel, a large male, behind the head, severing the spine and removing part of

Knowing the location of squirrel foods helps locate squirrels.



In late morning or early evening, taking a comfortable stand several yards from larger trees is often productive.

the right shoulder muscle. Roger's little soft-nosed bullet had done better, exploding inside the squirrel's head after entering just above the eye. They were two very dead squirrels.

"I saw a third one make it into that stand of oaks up the ridge," I said, pointing in the direction the squirrel had taken while running through the treetops. "I think we can get a shot at him by walking the ridge." We pocketed our kill and moved off along the ridge.

Roger and I had worked this method many times before, and it had produced well for us once the sun was up far enough to light the woods. Two men walking slowly through a woods thought to contain squirrels can often push the wary animals into a position which gives the other hunter a clear shot, and this is how we planned to relocate the third squirrel.

As we walked I couldn't help noticing the droppings and nut cuttings left by the dozens of squirrels in this area. Sign was abundant; hull chips and walnut shells were everywhere, and a bit further on we ran across halved acorns, their succulent inner fruits missing. Even the carpet of leaves told a story: here and there small bunches of leaves were turned up on end, the dark mulch of the soil showing underneath. Here the squirrels had been nosing in the leaves for fallen or buried nuts, the sign of their activity plain for the reading.

Squirrel hunting, especially with a small-caliber rifle, is one of the most challenging types of nimrodding in the country. It's undoubtedly true that scattergunners take home more squirrels every season than rifle hunters, but there's something special about being able to hit that small grey spot far up in a nut tree that makes the .22 my first and only choice for bushytails.

Unlike shutgun hunting, I have to either let running squirrels go, or risk taking a chancy snapshot before they scramble out of sight. A light pattern of shot can tumble a fleeing bushytail as well as a bobwhite or pheasant, but it's just these few restrictions that require a bit more of the hunter. There's just something special about hitting a three-inch target at 50 to 100 feet with a .22.

But before you can expect to hit squirrels consistently, you've got to be able to see them. Spotting a bushytail that is determined to keep the trunk of a tree or a clump of leaves between himself and the hunter requires more than a casual glance; you've got to know what to look for. This was brought home to me a minute later when we had crept into the beech woods farther up the ridge.

I had moved about 20 yards inside the treeline when I thought I heard claws on the bark of the tree at my shoulder. I stopped and leaned against the trunk, trying to keep from shivering in the chilly morning air. Then the scratching came again and I chanced a movement by cocking my head back and searching the foliage for the squirrel. He had been badly frightened once a few minutes before, so I knew he would be even cagier than usual. For the first few seconds all I could see was the canopy of autumn leaves. Then I noticed an unusual bump about 30 feet above my head.

The longer I looked at the bump, the surer I was that I was playing stare-down with our squirrel. First I noticed the little tufts that focused into pointed ears, then the two shiny black eyes made me sure that the bump had become a squirrel, and all of my stealth had been for nothing: he'd known I was there all along. Every few seconds he would blink, and that quick flash of movement was the only motion as he gripped the tree trunk, upside down.

I spent the next full minute easing my rifle from across my chest. The sights wobbled in front of my eyes, then steadied on the point on the animal's nose where the v-shaped black band came together above the nose. I squeezed the trigger, the rifle barked, and then I had to jump aside as the dead squirrel dropped straight down, and would have beaned me if I hadn't moved.

We continued to parallel the wooded ridge for another half mile, but succeeded in finding only a lot of fresh squirrel sign but no more bushytails. We stopped where the woods thinned into a small meadow, and talked about bushytail hunting in general, and seeing squirrels in particular.

Roger has a better game eye than I do. He can spot a sitting cottontail at quite a distance, and I have personally seen him locate and pick up three wing-shot quail that had fallen into a patch of honeysuckle so thick he had to crawl to retrieve the birds. It's the same with squirrels.

(Continued on page 36)

AUTUMN NORTHERNS

by JAMES PHILLIPS

THE small red white spoon soared through the air and landed in the water with a soft splash. It was a perfect cast. The spoon landed beside the trunk of a storm-toppled birch that had fallen into the blue water along the shoreline of a small island.

Dan Funk let the lure sink slowly for several seconds before beginning his retrieve. He had barely started turning the reel handle when a fish began nipping the spoon.

Funk cautiously timed the nips of the northern pike for several seconds before jerking back the rod to set the hook and crying out, "I've got him!"

The fish slashed downward and attempted to regain the sanctuary of the birch's tangle of branches. But Funk strained the four-pound test line and managed to turn the pike.

Then, in an unusual display of acrobatics, the northern came to the top and turned the smooth surface into a boil as it leaped clear of the water and thrashed on the surface.

"Scrappy little bugger, isn't he?" Dan commented as he played with the turned-on pike. Several minutes later, he led the weary pike to the side of the boat where he netted and released it.

It was the first fish of a trip into Michigan's upper peninsula, a trip designed to quickly isolate ourselves along the shores of quiet lakes where no strangers disturb the peace of autumn. We wanted seclusion and privacy with a minimum of fuss. And we wanted it within a day's drive of Chicago to avoid cutting into our valuable vacation time.

Interestingly, the trip began at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in September. Funk, a commercial airline pilot, was awaiting his next trip while I killed time before boarding a connecting flight.

As we commiserated about summer woes over a cup of coffee, Funk said, "Why don't we take a long weekend and go fishing? I know a great place for fall northerns that ought to tax our ultralight tackle to the utmost."

Funk had spent the summer stacked over airports in the crowded skies and fighting bucking aircraft tossed by towering, violent storms that sometimes extended upwards of 30,000 feet.

For myself, it has been a summer of incessant deadlines, of disasters and near-disasters and brushfire civil uprisings. Both of us wanted to get away from it all to find momentary solace.

"And I don't want to fly way up north where you work from dawn to dusk trying to catch a record-breaking trophy fish," Dan added. "I don't want to face the spectre of trying to go one-better than the next man and come home more exhausted than when I left.

"I just want to pitch a tent and relax for a few days. We'll go back in where we won't see any people and simply relax and use our ultralight tackle. Who cares if the fish gets away? The pace will be as leisurely as fly-casting for bluegills off the end of the dock on a warm summer evening," he said.

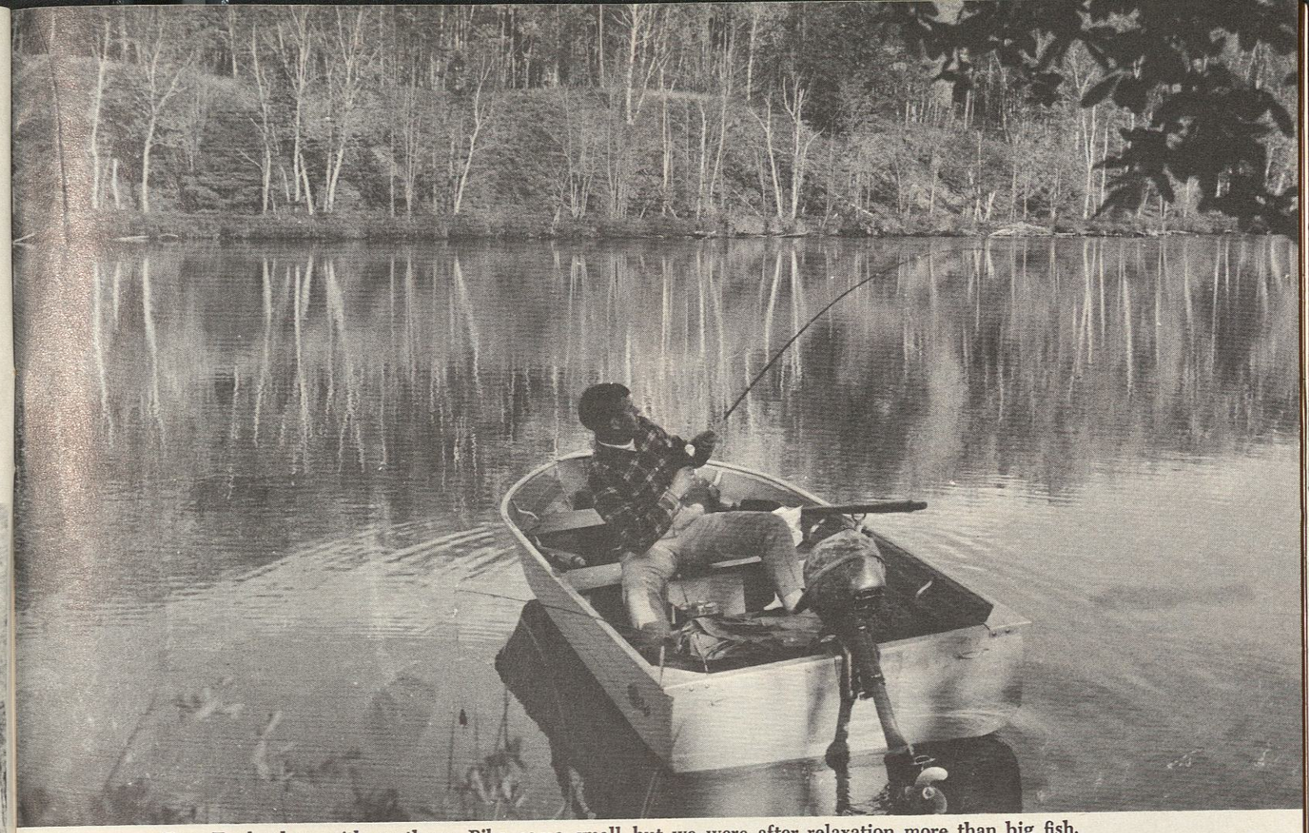
We decided to take a long weekend, scheduling our work so that neither of us would have to report on the preceding Friday or the following Monday. We would leave Thursday evening.

At Dan's suggestion, we named as our destination the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan's upper peninsula during the first week in October, a time when the woods would be a riot of vivid reds, yellows and browns.

After collecting our equipment, we began the difficult task of packing it all into his sports car. The twinseat sports car posed the frustrating problem of how to get ten gallons of water into a five gallon jug.

We unpacked my bulky duffel bag and shoved the sleeping bags, tent and assorted clothing into the shallow trunk. The clothing was jammed into various small crevasses formed by the larger, bulkier sleeping bags and tent.

The author takes a small northern from shore.



Dan Funk plays with northern. Pike came small but we were after relaxation more than big fish.

The only saving graces we could find for the car were that it kept our gear to an absolute minimum and that it was fast enough to get to Michigan quickly.

Because of a prior commitment, we headed eastward along the Indiana Toll Road to make a short stop in Goshen, Indiana, then swung north and slept that night north of Lansing, Michigan.

When we awoke, the skies had cleared and as we motored northward weary duck hunters emerged from nearby swamps and marshes carrying blacks and mallards.

Early that afternoon we crossed the Mackinac Bridge and turned left for the final dash to our destination—Big Island Lake.

We stopped briefly in Manistique to purchase fishing licenses and some last-minute items. Then we turned north from the rocky shores of wind-whipped Lake Michigan and finally left paved highway and began running the yellow dirt roads that penetrate the Hiawatha National Forest.

We rented a boat and motor from a local resident who immediately put the 12-foot aluminum craft on a trailer and hauled it to our campsite on the shore of Big Island Lake.

We pitched our tent as the sun painted the western sky a vivid lavender and yellow and as temperatures began dipping into the upper 30s.

A cold and stinging rain-laden wind swept down from the north during the night and greeted us as we emerged from the tent the next morning.

Glistening droplets of rain fell on us from the trees as we cooked out breakfast under gray skies before donning our ponchos and rigging our tackle.

We soon headed out on Big Island Lake and began trolling over a submerged weed bed between a pine and poplar studded point and the island the lake is named after.

Our problems were compounded by gusty winds that kept blowing us off course and the outboard that refused to throttle down slow enough for us to troll.

Failing in that, we tried casting the shoreline on the lee side of the island. But subfreezing temperatures forced ice to accumulate on our guides and we finally gave up.

"The heck with it," Dan said. "Let's quit until the rain and wind lets up. I didn't come here to torture myself."

We motored back to our campsite, stored our tackle, then got into the car and began exploring the forest, a huge tract loaded with ruffed grouse, deer and other game.

Campsites abounded on the numerous lakes that dot the forest. And the fishing is excellent.

However, one resident told us that the area's big attraction was fast becoming snowmobiling.

When we returned to Big Island after lunch, the rain had quit and gusty winds died down. We immediately shoved off for the far end of the lake and began casting the shorelines of small bays.

But soon we became discouraged with Big Island and carried the boat across a short portage to Cucumber Lake, a small narrow lake shaped like the vegetable it is named after.

Cucumber absolutely reeked with pike. Within minutes after launching the boat, a small northern hit my spoon. While I was playing it, another northern struck Dan's imitation minnow.

As the two pike thrashed about the boat, we were laughing as the northerns narrowly missed crossing paths and tangling our lines. But seconds later our lines did become entangled and one northern escaped.

We fished Cucumber throughout the afternoon as scrappy pike in the three-to-five-pound class fought valiantly against our ultralight spinning tackle.

(Continued on page 40)

'COONS ALL OVER

By Bob Moraczewski and Syl Marking

THERE was no moon. But a zillion extra-bright stars turned half the sky into an oversized milky way as Charlie German opened the back of the covered pickup and eleven coonhounds tumbled out.

To say that we Yankees were about to see some real Dixie coon hunters in action was like saying it gets chilly in the Arctic. It took a whole minute, and maybe 30 seconds, for the first hound to sound off. His excited yips came from the edge of a cornfield about 150 feet from where we parked.

It took another 30 seconds before most of the pack tore down through the cornfield in full cry. Only one sad-eyed hound—a pup we were told—loped around in confused circles near our party. And a deep, throaty baying came from the same general direction as the baying of the pack, but slightly to one side.

"That's Old Speck," drawled Carl Cline.

"No, it's Old Joe," offered Charlie German.

"Sounds like Blue to me," chimed in Ed Davis.

"Its treed, that's what it is," added Gay Hendrix a few seconds later.

"Yup, its treed," agreed Carl. He was sort of the informal spokesman for these hard-bitten coon hunters who'd taken a week's vacation and driven 1,000 miles from their homes around Memphis, Tennessee, for a week of raccoon hunting in central Minnesota.

Carl had agreed to interpret the hound language and sort of narrate the hunt for the dozen or so spectators, mainly local farmers, who tagged along that night to hear the coondogs.

Now that they mentioned it, the sound of the baying had taken on a different tone and seemed to come from one place instead of moving as before.

Strides lengthened. And when we arrived at the tree, Gay, Ed and Charlie already were trying to pick up the telltale set of eyes in the sweeping beam of Charlie's powerful headlamp.

Hounds were swarming around the V-shaped trunk of a huge elm, and a couple of the older ones were leaping and clawing their way six to eight feet up the sloping trunks. The clamor of the hounds was audible for a mile.

Since a couple of the older hounds were barking "treed" up each of the two trunks, we were looking for two sets of eyes. But the heavy foliage of early fall could have hid a half dozen coon in the old elm's sweeping branches. It was some time before Charlie spotted the flash of a single pair of eyes high in the dense leaves.

At the crack of Charlie's .22 auto-loader, the coon moved.

Charlie German gets loving attention from Old Joe as sunset nears and dogs regain interest in life.

It took a couple of more slugs to send him tumbling into the mass of wildly eager hounds below. It was a medium-sized coon, perhaps fifteen pounds, but it was the first on a bonanza hunt that saw fourteen coon bagged by 3 a.m., with the largest going over 30 pounds.

With the non-stop, good natured bantering between the four southern coon hunters, backed up with virtually constant action, that hunt was high-grade entertainment for the spectators. But it was also the fourth night in a row that proved to the Tennessee hunters that the long drive to Minnesota to chase coons was worth every mile driven and every cent it cost.

Carl Cline, 41, is an engine foreman with the Illinois Central Railroad in Memphis. Gay Hendrix is a 44-year-old Memphis welder. Ed Davis, 35, is a production foreman for a luggage company there. And 31-year-old Charlie German is a skinner for a Memphis packing company.

The hunters were headquartered in an old farm house, belonging to Bob Starr, Redwood Falls, Minn., farmer, who rents it out for a variety of recreational purposes. The house is snuggled in a small coulee of bottomland in the historic Minnesota River Valley, site of the planning of the great Sioux Indian uprising of 1862. It's also in the heart of some of the hottest ringtail hunting in the country today.

That's what brought Carl and his gang all the way from Tennessee. They had several nights left to hunt when the two of us, both writers for The Farmer Magazine in St. Paul, joined the group to get the information and photographs for this article. Even four nights had convinced these southerners that the virtually untapped coon hunting potential of the area would make another trip worthwhile. They were already talking about a fall trip in 1971.

"We take anywhere from 125 to 200 coon per year," Carl says. "But back home we average around three coon a night. We had been up for 24 hours before we arrived here, so we hunted just a little the first night and bagged four. Next night we hunted not quite three hours and nailed sixteen. Last night we caught nine."

Unsporting slaughter? Almost, by standards in some areas. But, remember, it was a four-man hunting party. And coons are considered predators in that area, grossly underharvested and damned by many. In fact, since the days of the pheasant decline, some have called for poisoning and state-control programs. Hunting certainly is a more sporty control method. In light of the above, heavy game bags sometimes are justified for hardworking hunters. However, if you're one who cares only for hound music without killing, there's no reason you can't capture the coon alive, as some occasionally do, or simply let most of them go to run another night. Whatever your cup of tea, there's enough coon in Minnesota to make a hound think he's gone to that big coon woods in the sky.

"Not only are there a tremendous amount of coon in Minnesota," says Carl, "but there are differences in weight and fur quality, too. I'd say the average weight of the coon here runs 50% better than it does down South. The thick pelts are better, too. But the best part is that you don't seem to have near the coon hunters that we do down home."

Minnesota Conservation Department officials agree that low fur prices in recent years have reduced the number of trappers and also the number of people who hunt raccoon in the Gopher State.

There are some houndmen who hunt raccoon in the Upper Midwest. But the number is small compared to a couple of decades back, or to the South. In most instances, it's only pest raccoons that are eliminated when they become bandits in poultry yards or truck gardens. For residents, it's not even necessary to have a license to destroy coon.

"I've spent 28 years in the field, and there are more raccoon now than when I first went to work for the division," says Ernie Boyd, Minnesota Conservation officer, Department of Natural Resources.

That fact of abundance was driven home to us about five minutes later when a couple of hounds started the second chase of the evening only a couple of hundred yards from where the first coon was bagged.

That coon, or coons, shook the dogs. And the next one apparently swam the nearby Minnesota River. A couple of older dogs followed. So, Ed, Charlie and Gay waded right across, knowing, but apparently not caring, about ten to twelve-foot holes in the river channel. The remainder of the party waited on the opposite shore. That coon went into a den, too.

It was only a few minutes later when the hounds started another. "That's old Joe," Charlie said, after cocking his head in the direction of the distant baying.

"Hell, that ain't Joe. That's Blue," piped up Gay.

"Whats amatter with you, Gay," quipped Ed. "You know darn well that's Pat."

"Sounds like old Speck," added Carl, apparently not to be outdone.

It was hard to tell whether these houndmen just enjoyed joshing, or whether they actually couldn't tell whose hound was whose. At another time, they claimed they could tell their own dogs, so it probably was the former.

"Treed," somebody else hollered moments later.

"Sounds like they've treed in the ground," Gay offered.

"Yup, the coon's probably in some rocks," agreed Carl. That's the way it turned out, too. We soon picked up two quick coon with little out of the ordinary happening in the process. Then, Charlie's aim or the thick foliage and poor target, probably a little of each, caused a coon to tumble out of the tree and come up fighting like ten mad bantam

(Continued on page 26)

The first coon of the night and two English coonhounds did their best to climb the tree in pursuit.

Charlie German would have accepted a volunteer to carry this heavy coon.

From the left, Gay Hendrix, Ed Davis, Carl E. Cline, Charlie German and their favorite hounds.

By Francis Bifoss

Panhandle Venture

DECEMBER first, 1970 ushered in the trapping season on the heels of what had been a very wet November and many creeks in the Panhandle of Alaska were running bank full.

However, even during the bad weather, fishing for halibut and snapper had been good with an occasional king salmon for the smokehouse. Incidently, fresh smoked red king is hard to beat.

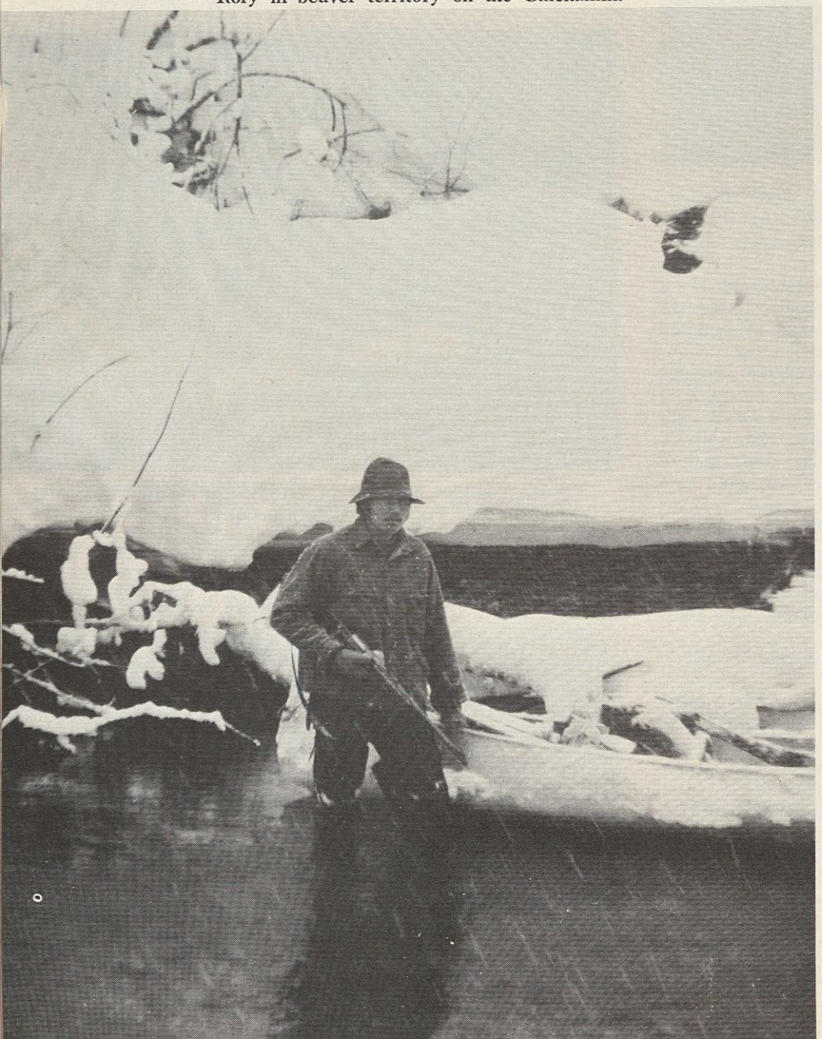
Our crab and shrimp pots had produced dungeness and large veinless shrimp in abundance.

Deer were plentiful as evidenced by the fact that each license holder is allowed four deer, so venison, some as jerky, some corned, provided a welcome change in our menu.

Our cabin was on the Chickamin River about 70 miles from Ketchikan, Alaska, and our nearest neighbors were about 35 miles away on Bell Island, which made it necessary to stock with supplies calculated to last all winter as my son, Rory, and I intended to trap beaver during March and April when the other seasons, except for wolf, were closed.

Inquiry in Ketchikan had uncovered the information that this area had not been trapped for twelve years which was born out by the fact that our prospecting trips, both by boat and canoe plus an occasional hike, had revealed much fur sign. We had two sightings of timber wolves along the shores of Revillagigedo Island and one sighting of a large wolverine on the peninsula. Many times during low tide we had seen otter and mink among the many small islands, and marten were much in evidence, several coming regularly to the cabin for food scraps.

Rory in beaver territory on the Chickamin.



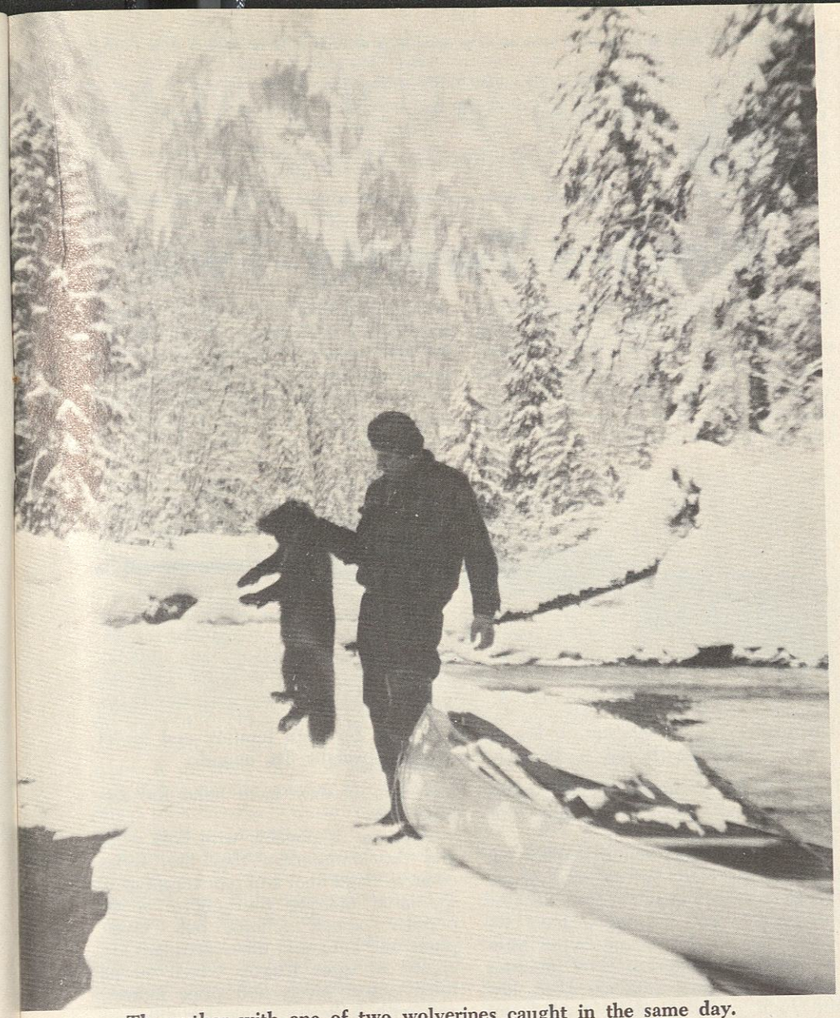
I awoke once during that last night of November and heard the wind blowing and rain pelting the roof. It felt good to be in a warm bed.

The next thing I knew Rory was shaking me, "Dad! You going to sleep all day?" We've got to get some traps set."

"Okay", I groaned and rolled out. December first was also my birthday and there had been far too many of them for me to face a five a.m. rising with much enthusiasm, but the fire was roaring, the coffee pot bubbling on the back of the stove and soon, after being fortified with several cups of black coffee, I began to come alive with some of my former anticipation of opening day. There had been many of them. Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and all had been high spots in my career as a trapper and my first opening day in Alaska was expected to be among the best. Nor was I to be disappointed.

As we left the cabin after a hearty breakfast, last nights storm was gone and the sky was a cold pale blue. In the high draws just below the snow line, stray wisps of fog—like smoke were hanging tight. The water was like glass with only a little swell as the boat with Rory at the wheel nosed out into the Behm Canal, a natural channel surrounding Revillagigedo Island. In places it is miles wide and as much as 100 fathoms deep and can be very rough, especially at the entrance to Burrough's Bay at the north end of East Behm.

At our first stop, Fish Point, I set a No. 48 trap in an otter trail that went through a cleft in the rocks which would shelter the trap from freezing rain and snow. Moss was used as bedding and camouflage, there being an abundance of it here as this is a rain forest much like the Olympic Peninsula in Washington.



The author with one of two wolverines caught in the same day.

Rory made a marten set in a tree that had been notched for that purpose by an unknown trapper many years ago. We then each made a mink set in narrow trails through the moss that were obviously well used.

In this country few water sets are made for mink and otter due to the change in water level because of tides. Sometimes there is as much as a 24 foot difference between a minus tide and a high tide.

With four sets made we moved back to the boat and headed north to Saks Cove with one stop enroute to make three sets on a point of rock that looked very good. There was quite a lot of otter and mink sign, crab shells, and an otter's bathroom on a small, comparatively level, shelf.

Two miles farther on we rounded the point into Saks Cove and saw four otter swimming along the base of the high steep shore. As I watched I longed for the more or less fixed water level of former traplines.

With the motor idling we waited and watched and soon we saw them enter a crevass in the rock of a small promontory, climbing up to disappear in the timber.

Rory wanted to go in immediately and start making sets for them but I suggested that we wait until they moved on so we wouldn't scare them.

With the motor still turning over slowly we cruised quietly back into the cove about half a mile, where we anchored in about twelve fathoms of water and some 200 feet from shore.

Our boat was a custom built cruiser, 21 feet long with eight-foot beam and equipped with a 55 horse, four cycle outboard. While the boat was small for these waters, the two bunks, twenty-gallon fresh water tank, sink and "head", a two burner camp stove and emergency rations made it fairly comfortable when we had to anchor in some sheltered cove and wait for better weather as often happened.

We towed a fifteen foot aluminum double-ender canoe that we used to go ashore after our boat was anchored. We also used it for traveling the rivers and some of the creeks. We later used it extensively during spring beaver and wolf trapping on the Chickamin and it's tributaries.

Now, however, anchored in Saks Cove we pulled the canoe alongside and loaded it with the traps we expected to set. We had had seal liver for supper the night before, it was delicious, better than beef liver. Now we put in some seal-flesh for marten bait, an axe, scent bottles and of course we took our rifles as this is brown bear country and some of them had yet to enter their dens. Only a week previously we had seen a large one on the Chickamin that fortunately spooked. We had no use for a bear rug although these Alaskan browns do make quite a trophy and they don't always spook.

We proceeded to shore where during the next 30 minutes we made four baited marten sets and two trail sets for mink. There was very little otter sign as they rarely came back into the coves.

Finished there, we returned to the boat and then to where we had seen the otter and there, as expected, was a trail that crossed the high point with several branches running deeper into the timber. We made two sets, concealing a No. 48 complete with guide or jump sticks, one trap at each end of the trail and just above the high tide line.

We then crossed the cove to the point on the north side of the entrance. Here too we found much evidence of otter and mink so we made four sets before journeying farther north to Fitzsimmons Cove where we also found a great amount of otter and mink sign on both points. This took care of eight more traps.

From here we crossed to the island side of the Behm, eating our lunch on the way.

Revillagigedo Island is about 60 miles long and 30 miles wide, surrounded by about 150 miles of waterways. After arriving on the island side of the Behm Canal we traveled south with three stops to make eleven sets, all in promising locations for otter, mink and marten.

When we arrived at Portage Cove directly across the canal from the Chickamin and home, we dropped anchor and used the canoe as we had decided to paddle two miles upstream on Portage Creek to where a large colony of beaver had a dam that the wolves had been using to cross the creek. We would have liked to use a snare here, (legal in Alaska) but saw tracks of black bear. There were no browns on this island. So we decided to use a No. 14 Newhouse with a long chain and drag. We concealed it in the

(Continued on page 53)

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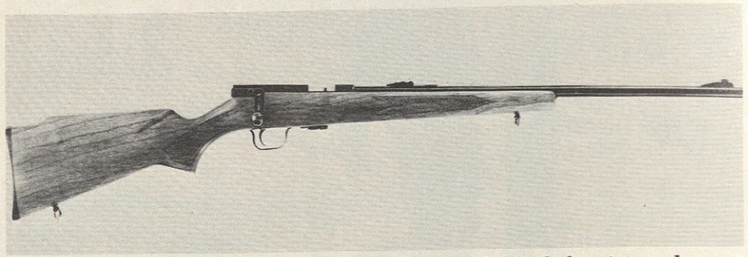
THE GUN RACK

By Maurice H. Decker

Rimfire Twenty-Two

WHILE other calibers come and go, the common .22 rimfire promises to be around a long time. The .22 short you recall, was the first successful metallic cartridge and it and its companions, the .22 long and .22 long rifle are still in strong demand. They have too many practical and popular uses to be cancelled out at any foreseeable future time.



The model 320 Winchester rimfire .22 is suitable for both hunting and target shooting. It has a 22 inch barrel and weight 5⅝ pounds.

The common .22 rimfire caliber has been an important one to arms manufacturers as well as to shooters because these riffles and handguns have for years, been the bread and butter business of many factories. Some firearms makers who now produce both low and high power models, started out with the .22 rimfire kind alone.

As for shooters, these loads and in particular the long rifle size, successfully performs many shooting chores. The latter admittedly is not a long range cartridge and it's no super power mill but it is very accurate and if you can place bullets in the right places and restrict your shots to reasonable distances, you can bag many species of small pests and small game.

Again the .22 rimfire caliber is an ideal one for target practice, organized or impromptu and for amusement shooting. The long rifle cartridge is standard in smallbore matches, the short an accepted shooting gallery and short range load. And for plinking at artificial targets or other non-alive targets, either size is accurate, convenient and inexpensive.

Many of the basics of shooting and marksmanship can be learned as well with a rim fire rifle as with one of larger and more expensive caliber. The .22 is a very good first buy for beginners even when they plan to use a big game caliber later. And because the rimfire ammunition has no recoil or muzzle blast and a mild report, it can be shot by almost anyone and in places that would not tolerate more powerful loads. Outdoorsmen like hunters, campers and trappers as well as indoor target shooters can find use for a common .22 rimfire even if they have none for any other size.

Economy is possible with both rifles and the ammunition they fire. Rifles come in single shot and repeating types, the latter offering your choice of all popular breech actions, bolt, lever, pump and auto, and their cartridges are loaded in three lengths which means three power levels and price figures, and with bullets suitable for different targets.

As to specific costs, you can get a single shot .22 for around $25. Repeaters run from $40 up to almost $100 depending on breech type and accessories included and then there are special target models designed to score "possibles" on paper targets and fitted with specialized equipment to help the shooter achieve them, that start at $150 and go higher. This much variety indicates that shooters with different budgets can still obtain a well made .22 rimfire rifle that will fire accurately and give many years of service.

Twenty-two rimfire ammunition is reasonably priced, only a little more than a cent per round for some loads which is definitely a bargain in shooting performance you can't beat.

The standard (not special target) single shot .22 has two things going for it. It lets us own a rifle for minimum cost and it is favored by some as a good model for teaching marksmanship to beginners. A one-shot .22 can also be used for plinking and paper target shooting if you don't mind its slow rate of fire and it will serve too for hunting small game and pests if you can make the first shot count. Some trappers especially like the single-shot rifle because it's light to carry and the simple mechanism keeps on working without regular cleaning and oiling.

However for small game and pest hunting, for rapid fire target shooting and for fun plinking, the repeater is usually more satisfactory. Much of the pleasure in small bore shooting comes when we follow a rolling tin can, a floating chunk of wood or a running animal with fast repeat shots. And for hunting especially, the repeater makes it easier to slam in a quick second bullet should the first miss or merely wound the target.

Choosing between the four breech types of repeating .22s can hinge on several matters. One is cost, for some kinds are lower in price than others. The bolt action with clip magazine is usually the lowest price .22 rimfire we can buy in standard or hunting grade. Next in the rising scale of prices is the auto or self-loader. Some of these sell for only several dollars more than a bolt rifle. Third in price is the pump repeater leaving the lever action costing most of all. This comparison doesn't always hold true for there are instances when a different ratio of cost exists. But it is generally correct. Price differences exist mostly because of the different costs of manufacture.

Another matter to consider when chosing a .22 rimfire repeater is its intended use. If besides general hunting you will fire the rifle in organized target matches, the bolt breech with a clip magazine is most popular when repeaters are used. Actually in smallbore matches, no other type is even considered. Expert riflemen like the way a bolt breech locks behind the cartridge head, the way live rounds are handled by the clip magazine and the precise fit of barrel and fore-end made possible with a full-length and one-piece stock.

But for hunting and fun shooting, any of the standard breech types will shoot sufficiently close. There may be a slight difference in group size made with one breech compared with another but it will require a bench rest, a good scope and fairly long range test shooting to detect it. And then it may not be enough to make any difference in the kind of smallbore shooting most of us do. Any well made .22 repeater, bolt, lever, pump or auto, will handle small targets well if sights are correctly adjusted and if they're suitable for your eyes and the shooting range. Many complaints about .22 rimfire inaccuracy stem from a violation of these requirements.

The pump type of 22 rimfire repeater isn't as popular as it formerly was since fewer models are now made. It has been said that many pump rifles were chosen by shooters using the same type of repeating shotgun but I doubt if this is true today. For while pump action shotguns sell as well as ever, some factories have ceased making pump .22 rifles.

This however doesn't reflect on the quality of the pump design. Pump 22s handle cartridges dependably, they shoot accurately and are convenient to use whether or not you own a pump action shotgun. They're faster in repeat firing than the bolt breech and faster too than some of the levers. And there's at least one pump model that meets the requirements of those shooters who like a little more weight and barrel length than possessed by some other repeating .22s.

The lever action rimfire .22 is probably the oldest of the repeating types. It dates back to early Henry, Winchester and Marlin models and there has been only small changes in outside appearance since. In fact the Marlin 39 is a refined version of their 1892 repeater which originally was made in both .22 and .32 rimfire calibers but now is chambered for the former only.

Even the new Browning and Winchester lever .22s and particularly the Browning resemble the early rifles with their tubular magazines, and in some cases, outside hammers and carbine type bands. There have been other lever .22s put on the market at different times with quite different styling but they're no longer around. Apparently the old time gunsmiths and inventors had a good notion of what shooters like.

Of course the lever .22 repeaters we buy today have improvements not found on the old models. The lever throw of some has been substantially reduced; with the Browning for instance, you operate the lever without removing your hand from the stock. Just a smooth quick flick of the fingers ejects the fired shell, cocks the hammer and feeds a fresh load into the chamber.

Some .22 rimfire lever repeaters, Marlin is an example, have a different type of rifling with multiple shallow lands and grooves in contrast to fewer deeper ones for a softer grip on the bullet that reportedly prevents bullet distortion. Those lever repeaters with outside hammers have a very effective safety, the half-cock hammer notch, a safe, convenient and easly learned method of preventing discharge until you want it.

More rifles of .22 rimfire caliber are made and sold with the bolt type of breech than any other kind. Granted it's the slowest to operate when firing strings of shots and especially for a left-handed shooter although there are left-hand versions of some bolt repeaters. Browning has one, that enable the southpaw to fire as fast as his right-

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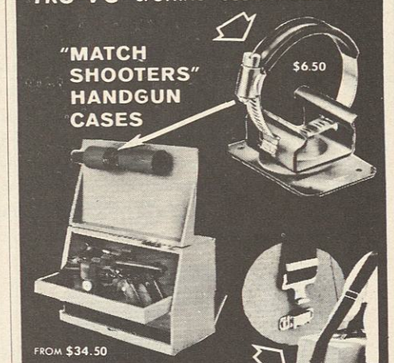

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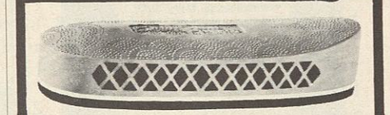

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handed companion can with a regular model rifle.

The bolt breech is simple in design, very strong and has a minimum of parts. Some of the recent designed models have locking lugs that turn into recesses cut in the receiver behind the chamber like the breech of a high power rifle. The bolt too can be removed without tools for cleaning from the breech and the bolt itself dismounted in the field to remove sand or fouling that might hamper operation.

I have already said that bolt rifles cost less to produce in standard hunting grade and consequently many bolt models sell at minimum prices. The bolt .22 has a one-piece stock and in some brands give the shooter a choice of clip or tubular magazine. Several of the short light special carbine .22s that seem popular with shooters, have a bolt breech. All the special target .22s use it also. And most bolt models shoot all three lengths of the rimfire cartridge.

There are several reasons why only the bolt breech outsells the self-loading .22s. One undoubtedly is their fire power. The ability to shoot fast appeals to both hunters and plinkers who seem to get much satisfaction in being able to get off short or long bursts of bullets without pausing to reload. The ease of this kind of shooting is one of the auto's big appeals.

Another is the fact that the mechanism does the reloading job without any attention or effort from the shooter. All he has to do is concentrate on his aim and trigger pull and when targets are small and moving, this helps a lot.

Again the reloading cycle of the auto is completed quickly leaving less time for your sights to drift away from the target should you want to fire at it again. There's less disturbance also to sight alignment with the self-loader than with a rifle whose bolt you must lift, pull back and shove forward, or a lever or pump slide that requires two movements in different directions to recharge the rifle's chamber. These are fine points I know and while the auto .22's rapidity of fire may well be its greatest appeal, these minor matters can't help but add to its overall efficiency.

Some self-loading .22s handle all three lengths of the rimfire ammunition, others shoot the long rifle cartridge only. And you can buy one auto that fires shorts alone, this would be a natural for shooting gallery service or for the man who will use it for trick shooting or short-range plinking.

The lever and pump action rimfire self-loaders are made with tubular magazines and this is true of most autos although one carries a clip and another a rotary cartridge holder. The bolt action .22s however use both kinds of magazines with a choice open with essentially the same rifle.

Repeaters with clip magazines sell for a little less and the expert target shooter prefers a clip but for a different reason. His preference is based on how it handles the sensitive long rifle target cartridge. In contrast, small game hunters and fun shooters often like the tubular magazine best because of its greater capacity, up to 21 shorts in some models and as many as nineteen long rifles in another.

Two factories, Browning and Winchester use a tubular magazine located in the stock instead of lying beneath the barrel. Either type is reliable and easy to load. The stock-held magazine reduces the number of moving parts in the breech since a carrier to raise the load to chamber level is unnecessary.

Ruger's rimfire auto uses the rotary magazine holding ten long rifle cartridges. The magazine is slipped out for loading and an extra charged one can be carried in your pocket if much shooting is expected.

Most but not all .22 rimfire rifles shoot all three sizes of ammunition as explained in the data about autos. And the special target models used in expert competition are chambered for the long rifle load only. The others that shoot all sizes are designed so you can feed loads into the magazine in any order, straight or mixed and the rifle functions normally.

Long rifle ammunition is usually chosen for small game and pests because of its superior killing power. Shorts are popular for fun shooting and short range target practice. Most hunters and fun shooters seem to prefer a rifle that shoots all sizes so they can choose the most suitable one for the occasion. Serious target shooters and long range riflemen prefer a rifle chambered just for the long rifle cartridge because the bore can be rifled precisely to handle the longer bullet best. Barrels of other models carry a compromise and slower rate of rifling that gives the best accuracy when both short and long bullets are fired.

The barrels installed on .22 rimfire rifles vary in length from the short 16½", 18" and 18½" on carbines, through 19", 20", 22" and 24" found on regular rifles, the latter figure being maximum for general purpose models. The special expert target .22s have heavy barrels measuring 26" or 28".

Barrel length isn't important from the angle of power because the common .22 rimfire loads develop their maximum pressure in the first twelve to fifteen inches of barrel. More length therefore serves only to establish a certain balance and appearance and better shooter accuracy when metal sights are used. The long barrels don't increase rifle accuracy, only that of the shooter.

Length of barrel however can affect the appearance of a rifle, depending on

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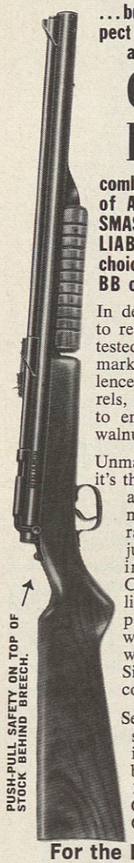

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what the individual prefers. Barrel length can also influence handling the firearm, the very short models may swing on the target a little faster and they are certainly easier to carry. More barrel length on the other hand can promote a certain steadiness in holding when we fire deliberately, and they increase overall length, a matter appreciated by large frame, muscular shooters.

For general shooting I like a barrel no shorter than 20″ and I usually prefer one a little longer. This is an individual matter of course and others probably think differently. There are a lot of .22s made with 20″ and shorter barrels, although some new ones measure 22″. But with the big variety available, everyone can be pretty sure of finding exactly what he likes.

The 303 British Rifle

A number of readers must have used or been familiar with the 303 British cartridge. Fird in the SMLE (Short Magazine Lee Enfield) it was the standard service load of the British Empire for 60 years and many of these rifles were shipped to the U.S. and Canada as army surplus after World War II. The 303 has also been a popular hunting caliber in every British Commonwealth nation for sporting type bolt repeaters made by English and Canadian firearm factories. More big game has probably been killed in Canada with 303 rifles than with any other.

The 303 British cartridge is similar in size and power to the 30-40 Krag. It also uses a rimmed case and was originally loaded with a 215-gr. bullet developing 2100 ft. sec. velocity. Some ammunition plants still furnish this bullet but a more popular one that's more effective on big game weighs 180-gr. and moves along at a speed of 2540 ft. sec.

This 180-gr. bullet is the best choice for hunting and is suitable for any but the largest American animals shot at ranges up to 250 yards. Muzzle energy of the 180-gr. bullet is 2580 ft. lbs., trajectory over 200 yards has a mid-range height of 3.3″. Obviously the 303 lacks the long range performance of calibers like the 30-06 but for most big game and at short to moderate range, it can perform quite well.

Although the 303 British cartridge looks like the 30-40 load, it has a larger diameter bullet, .312″ instead of .308″ for Krag and a shorter over-all length. So there's little chance of confusing one for the other. The Canadian firm Ross Rifle Co., made both hunting and military bolt 303 rifles and one American model, Winchester's 1895 lever repeater shot the 303, no doubt for the business of Canadian hunters and trappers.

Surplus 303 rifles must not be confused with the 1917 Enfield in 30-06 caliber of which a large number were also sold here as military surplus. The 303 is difficult to remodel especially if you want a fairly good looking firearm and if you want hunting type sights or a scope. Handloading 303 ammunition for the SMLE can be complicated because bore dimensions of the different imported types vary. Handloading manuals recommend slugging the bore so the hunter can purchase the right jacketed bullet since different bullet makers produce several options of size. And cases may stretch when fired in the SMLE with maximum charges.

Handloading however isn't necessary as it is with some other military imports because a good supply is offered by U. S. and Canadian ammunition plants and some imported stuff is also available with different bullet weights. Imported cartridges have 130 and 150-gr. bullets besides the 180-gr. size, but the latter is most popular.

Winter of the Moose

By James Kneiper

Last year was truly the winter of the moose in Alaska's vast Tanana Valley in the geographical center of this largest of states. As I traveled from residence hall to class, or off campus to the surrounding hills, I see moose, and I mean lots of moose.

Last year's phenomenal record snowfall of more than 140 inches drove the moose from their natural habitat, forcing them to seek easier feeding grounds, where they could move about with less labor.

This migration, however, brought many moose into populated areas and to the roads. Moose were a common sight in backyards eating the tender tips of aspen branches or feeding on some bits of food left for them by concerned residents, and were as plentiful as cattle on some roads and on the railroad tracks. Several took up residence on the University of Alaska campus. It was easier picking for the moose in these areas and they were not easily convinced that they did not belong there. These moose stood their ground and at times were easily provoked to charge.

One school bus driver approached a moose on the highway on his early morning rounds and honked the horn to frighten the animal off the road. But the snow just off the road was deep and the moose was not quite ready to move. When the bus was about eight or ten feet from the animal, the driver again honked the horn. This time the moose turned and kicked a hole in the grill. The driver then turned off the bus lights and waited. Once satisfied, or bored, the moose lumbered to the side of the road and let the bus pass.

Moose standing on the snow plowed railroad tracks sometimes had to be forcibly pushed off while some others have been known to turn and charge the advancing train head on.

On the whole, moose in populated areas were not too bothersome, but more than one person had to beat a rather hasty retreat from an angry charging animal. Others were not as lucky. Earlier, in North Pole, Alaska, a small town outside of Fairbanks, a large and very expensive Irish Setter annoyed a cow and her calf that were in a front yard. A sharp kick delivered by the powerful animal ripped the setter in half. Since a moose does not distinguish between an animal and a small child curiously approaching "the big dog" moose can be very dangerous in a populated area.

When a moose does become a menace and is considered a threat to human life, if it can not be coaxed into leaving the area, it must be disposed. The problems involved in trying to tranquilize and safely move an animal of such a size are just too great. There is a possibility of administering an overdose which would kill the animal anyway. And the immediate availability of sufficient equipment to move the animal in the short time that it would be tranquilized, presents a great problem. Therefore, the animal must be destroyed. Incidents such as this have only occurred a few times when it could not be avoided.

One adult bull was killed on campus when after a few weeks he decided that part of the area belonged to him, and he charged a few people. Nearby were several houses occupied by professors with families.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game were called in to get rid of the animal on campus. In such cases, as in road kills, the animal does not go to waste. This bull was killed with a deliberate overdose of Anectine. The Federal Drug Administration allows only this drug to be used if the meat is to be eaten. Tests began on the animal at once. At the Department of Fish and Game laboratory, more tests were run and the entire animal was studied for parasites, diseases, growth and general health so that the biologists can determine the status of the other moose. The meat from these animals was then donated to a charitable organization such as the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, The Youth Home or the Salvation Army.

Many moose died last winter. In the deep snow a moose can easily become trapped and starve to death. Automobiles took their toll and many animals

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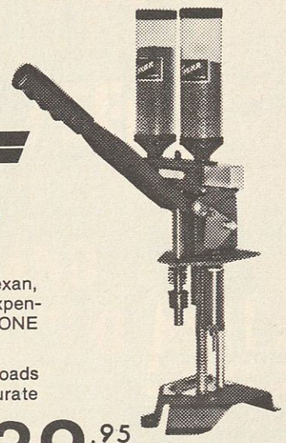

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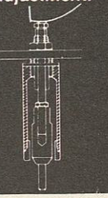

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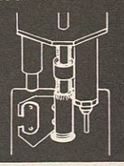

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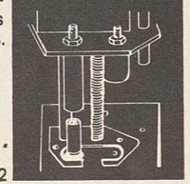

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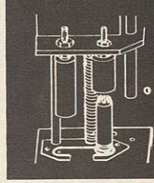

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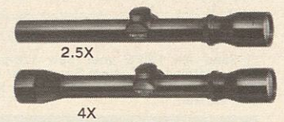

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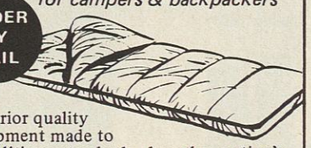

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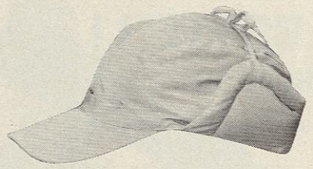

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died on the railroad tracks. The young moose took the greatest loss, At first, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Officials expected that 90% of the calf population were lost, but now the figure has been changed to approximately 80%. This figure still is high when compared to the average of 50%.

Many area residents showed great concern for the moose dilemma and set up feeding stations for them. Others went out into the woods on weekends and cut down aspen and birch trees for the moose to feed on. The moose often responded rather ungraciously to such assistance.

A Gobbler for Each

By Joseph S. Hufham

IT was Friday. I was supposed to go to school that day, but Solomon Rogers knocked on my bedroom door at three in the morning and spoke words dear to my heart.

"I've got the day off, Joe; let's go to the Acme Teachest woods and just see how many squirrels we can kill in a day."

Solomon had walked two miles to get to my home; it was three miles to the Juno Russ landing from my home. The land Solomon wanted to hunt was over in Pender County, in southeastern North Carolina.

"I'll have to skip school to do it, Solomon," I answered, "but I'll do it. Not so much for squirrels, but because they say that Teachest land is full of turkeys. I want to bag one."

Solomon was radiant with enthusiasm. My dad who was then running the New Berlin Lumber Company commissary, had gotten up to let Solomon in, and by the time I got my clothes on dad had coffee perking. Both Solomon and I had a cup, and then we were off, for Solomon had brought along sandwiches for us to eat later in the day. My dad had a small red pony called 'Prince', and an open-top buggy. Sol' and I used the pony and buggy. It was still dark when we neared the landing, and there was frost.

Cold, we got out, built a fire; and while warming, ate the sandwiches. At the first gray streaks of dawn we were tying the pony to a hitching tree in the ferryman's yard. Russ was up. He came out, said he'd give the pony a bundle of fodder and a nubbing of corn about noon.

As he ferried us across the Cape Fear the tide had just begun backing up. "Squirrels will be out galore, feeding on flood tide," Russ said. "And it appears to be a good, calm morning." We heard large fish splashing in the river, some whopping away loud as alligators. "Carp, gars and rock," Russ informed us.

On the Pender side, Sol' and I separated soon as we hit the bank. Russ had told us, "Squirrels leave the lowlands to feed in the oaks near the river." So Sol' headed east down the bank. I headed due north to the lowlands, for Russ had said there were ridges deep in the tupelo swamp, and turkeys scratched under clumps of hornbeams that also grew on those ridges.

I had gone about a hundred yards when I heard Sol's gun belch. Before I'd gone far enough to be in the tupelo swamp, he had shot three times. I figured he'd bagged three squirrels, for he was a good shot. But I hadn't seen a squirrel.

I stopped when I found fresh turkey sign, sat on a log. I was then about half a mile from the river. It was a dry time and most of the slues had dried. Where I found a little dampness I saw oodles of turkey and raccoon tracks in the muck.

Seated, I was looking, listening. So far I had not reached a ridge, but saw one about two hundred yards ahead. The tupelo trees about me were so tall I doubted my little .20 gauge single barrel breech-loader would knock one out of the top of one of those trees. Listening, I heard a dog bark. Then followed a series of barks.

Air was not stirring, so I distinctly heard turkeys flying up over the way the dog had barked. One turkey flew the way Sol' had gone, bypassing me by about 70 yards. I didn't shoot. I had not become an experienced turkey hunter, but had heard that after turkeys are scattered they can be easily yelped to within shooting distance.

Presently leaves were thrashing. Pack Powel, who later became my baseball catcher while I was pitching for the Acme-Delco high school team, and another friend of mine, George Blizzard, passed along some distance away from me. I did not call to them; figured they were back on the Acme Teachest land hunting squirrels with that dog.

They had been gone about 30 minutes. A gun fired every few minutes the way Solomon had gone. I was silently debating with myself: should I cut loose and squirrel hunt, or concentrate on trying to get a turkey? I didn't have an artificial yelper. I decided to yelp, just once, and did. Instantly a squirrel that had slipped down a tupelo gum to the ground, made a leap and perched on top of a cypress knee.

I leveled my gun at him; he was in easy range. But as I was taking a bead, beginning to tighten on the trigger, I heard a turkey yelp back of me. Taking down my gun, I yelped again. The squirrel was determined to tempt me further. He dropped to the ground, picked up a tupelo berry, and sat upright to cut the goodie out of it. Then picked up another.

After watching that squirrel a minute, hearing no more from the turkey, I eased up the gun, drew back the hammer. I was trying to reason that a sure squirrel could be better than a possible turkey. But as on the previous occasion, as I lifted the gun to get the squirrel, the turkey yelped, sounded a lot closer.

Having tempted me enough, the squirrel trotted away. I sat silent about 30 seconds. Old hunters had told me you could over-do the thing trying to yelp turkeys to you. But I'll admit that waiting was hard for me to do. Easing to the ground on my knees I

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Figure 1

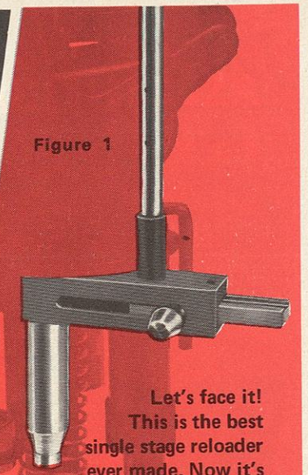

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Figure 2

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rested the gun on the log, was now facing the way the turkey had sounded.

When he failed to yelp, I yelped. Presently he answered but didn't sound any closer. We played a game of yelping, then waiting. The turkey made me wait, so I did him likewise. Finally, he quit answering completely. The sun was getting well up, and I was weary of waiting. I decided to ease up, and along, the way I figured the turkey was when he'd last answered me.

I made a mistake and put in a load of buck-shot. Give me 4's or 6's for turkeys. I shoot at their heads. A thump on the head with one of those smaller shot can be more effective than a buck-shot or two through a turkey's body. Buckshot usually are fatal to turkeys, but when first wounded they can get away to die later.

I'd gone about 50 yards back the way I'd come. Just flannel-footing, trying to keep the now dry leaves from crunching under my feet. I was now out of the tupelo swamp, entering a basin-like place large as a baseball diamond that had six or eight huge black-gum trees in it. I saw that the leaves carpeting the ground had been well churned, as if a large drove of turkeys had been frequenting it.

Now that I was where I figured the turkey had last answered me, I stopped. I stood half a minute in silence, my thumb on the gun's hammer ready to cock it instantly. I was on the verge of yelping again when, swish-swish, swish. Out from behind a gum about 30 yards away, a fine gobbler tore at a high rate of running speed.

He was almost broadside to me as my gun roared. He didn't fall, but kicked himself off the ground and flew high up into a gum, perched on a large limb near where I had been seated when I'd first heard him. I was sure I'd put buck shot into him, even though he'd flown up as if he were uninjured.

I made mistake number two. I put in another load of buckshot. This particular shell was swollen from dampness, and I had to press it hard to get it into the firing chamber. The gun loaded again, I eased back. That big limb was protecting the turkey's body. I went under the tree, and slightly beyond. I could see the turkey, but not well enough for a sure shot. A head shot with a squirrel load could have been very effective, for the turkey wasn't more than 50 feet up.

I thought of that even then, but remembering I had in a swollen shell, I decided to shoot the buck load. Dropping back to a distance of about 90 feet from the tree, I shot the turkey from behind, and down he came. While he was falling I was running, and was breaking my gun to slip in another shell.

The turkey hit the ground running. I saw that the shell ejector had pressed back past the rim of the cap, and I had no time to spare cutting a stick to knock out the empty. Nor did I want the gun to hold me back in a foot-chase. Dropping the gun, which I had a habit of treating roughly, I tore out after the turkey.

I ran him across the tupelo swamp, across a ridge, and didn't gain a yard on him. When he entered another section of tupelo swamp, I gave up, for all of a sudden I'd become gravely concerned about my gun. If I remember right, there were about 2,000 acres of that Teachest swamp, and miles more of such both up and down river. Inexperienced with landmarks over there, I began finding a lot of swamp looking familiar, which really wasn't.

About eleven o'clock that morning I found my gun. I was poking the shell out with a stick when I heard a gun fire not far from me. Sol' and I did a special type of whistle to call each other. I whistled. Sol' answered. Presently he walked up, mossy-looking with squirrels.

"How many you got, Sol'?" I asked.

"Thirteen." (In those days we had no squirrel limit in our section). "What have you killed?" he asked.

I briefed him on my turkey experience. He laughed. "You should never shoot a turkey with buck shot, Joe. Now show me exactly where the turkey fell from the tree."

I showed him. He took the track. On leafy and dry places, there were no tracks, but at other places he'd pick them up again. When we crossed a soft place, I said, "Look, Sol', there are scores of turkey tracks!"

"I know, but this one was running," he answered. "Besides, I've kept seeing your tracks occasionally."

I showed him where I'd stopped on the ridge. "The turkey was high-tailing it out through yonder," I said, pointing the way I'd last seen the turkey. "And boy, he was still running."

"We'll find him," Sol' said. "Come on. He was keeping a straight course."

That tupelo swamp wasn't very wide, and the next ridge was hardly a ridge, but was high enough it was dry. It was thinly studded over with white oaks, maples, enormous sweet-gum trees, with a smattering of hornbeam, pig-hickory, and long, rope-like grape-vines.

Presently we came to the hull of an old cypress log. I was going to bypass the butt end. Sol' grabbed my arm. "There's your turkey; grab his feet." Sol' stood with his gun ready. I stooped, grabbed the gobbler's feet, then jerked him out. The turkey hardly flopped when I wrung his neck. Later, I found I'd put four buck shot through the turkey on the side shot, and one

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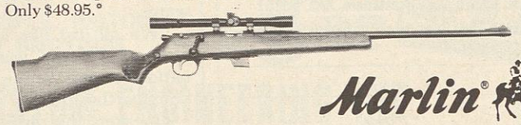

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when I'd shot him from behind and knocked him off the limb.

Sol' told me, "You go hunt the river bank about two hours and let me try back here. I want a turkey, too."

While crossing a place well studded with ash and gum trees I got into a bunch of squirrels, killed four fast as I could load and shoot. Further on, I shook a dead bush, began chattering like a squirrel, and two more began barking.

By the time Sol and I met at the riverbank I had nine squirrels. Sol' had killed two more and a gobbler larger than mine. "He was in a tall cypress," Sol' said, "and I knocked the top of his head off with a load of buck shot. I knew he was too far away for small shot and I figured I couldn't get closer."

We tied our turkeys and squirrels to the buggy so they'd hang out, and drove home.

Coons All Over

(Continued from page 13)

roosters. He successfully fought off the dogs and broke away two different times for runs of a couple of hundred feet. With most of the eleven hounds at hand, a shot couldn't be risked.

Dogs grabbed and pulled the animal from both ends as he was lying on his back, biting and fighting with all four feet. Everybody thought it was all over several times after hearing the snarling, chirping, hissing, and sometimes guttural screams of the coon. But always he rallied and managed to sink his teeth somewhere into another eager hound.

Carl finally waded in when the coon was down and pinned him while others called off or pulled away the hounds. A .22 slug ended the toughest animal battle we've ever seen and one that had these southern coon hunting veterans wagging their heads and saying, "Yes sir, he sure was a tough one, I don't feel sorry for him. He sure got his licks in on the dogs."

Several more coon were added quickly to the bag by 10 p.m., when the wet clothes got too uncomfortable for those who had waded the river earlier.

A rest and coffee break gave us a chance to get better acquainted with the Tennessee coondog men.

"I've hunted in fifteen or more states and most of our hunting down home is swamp hunting," Carl explains. "Nearly half the time our dogs are running in water.

"We all just like to hunt and we all have good dogs," was his simple explanation for the various ages and occupations in the group.

One gets the distinct impression that coon hunting is more like a disease than a casual hobby with these four. That's evident from their equipment, their talk and the dogs they run.

Carl's "Massey's Blue Speck," or Old Speck for short, is a ten-year old blue ticked English Coonhound. There were three generations of the old patriarch's offspring running in the pack that night.

"Nearly all the dogs in the pack are related to Old Speck one way or another," Charlie explained. His own experienced dog, Joe, is one of Speck's sons.

Carl ran Speck in field trials in fifteen states in 1967. Still in his prime then, the hound racked up thirteen first places, one tie and one loss. He's a former champion, night champion and grand night champion. He's "over the hill" now, Carl explain. But his booming bass voice echoing in confines of the river valley were a thrilling sound, even for us bird dog men.

To the uninitiated, or a bird dog man, those sad-eyed hounds aren't exactly a beast of classical beauty. But to houndmen like Carl, Gay, Ed and Charlie, they wear angel wings.

"I was offered $5,000 for him once," Carl says of Old Speck. "That doesn't necessarily mean he was worth that much. But I turned it down."

"My wife has accused us taking the dogs to the vet more often than taking the kids to the doctor and caring more about the hounds, too," admits Gay.

Though sport is the prime consideration, these hunters brought a deep-freeze in the back of one of the two pickups they drove from Tennessee. They freeze both hides and carcasses which are sold when they get back home. "We freeze the coon, then seal the deep freeze with masking tape. That'll hold for 48 hours and when we get back home we plug her back up again," Ed says.

Carl Cline hoists the coon that sprung a fish scale that measured up to 28 pounds.

They hunt with .22 rifles, loaded with long rifle hollow-point "mini mags," and carry $75 high-powered lamps. That night, Charlie had his mounted as a headlamp with a battery pack for power riding on his belt. It makes spotting coon much easier because the light beam is at eye level, he says. A coon "squaller," which frequently will cause a coon to look at the light, also aids in spotting coon, especially when foliage is heavy.

In Minnesota, the dogs are a must for night hunting. It's illegal to shine trees searching for raccoons not treed by dogs or other animals. Main reason: it'd be too good an excuse for deer-shiners to use.

We were discussing the merits of Charlie's light during a nearly pitch black, hour-long lull when the action picked up again. It got into high gear when Charlie's hollow points dropped a coon from a tree while we were still 200 yards away.

"Did you hear the plop of that coon hitting the ground?" someone asked of nobody in particular. "It must have been a monster."

It was. We don't know if they weighed it the next morning, but we dug a fish scale from our car trunk. The scale is accurate within a pound and we hung the old boar coon on with a twine. The scale snapped right down to the 28-pound maximum, the hanging mechanism bent in half and the coon plopped to the ground. Carl said it was at least as large and maybe larger than one they had weighed a couple of nights earlier. He weighed 32 pounds.

"That coon hit the ground running for the river, and I tried to drop kick him back up the bank," Ed recalled. "It was like kicking a bull and I didn't stop him no how."

When the hounds reactivated their voiceboxes one last time, we had a fitting climax to our action-packed night. "Sounds like Joe," said Charlie. "Could be Speck," drawled Carl. "Gotta be Pat," Ed stated. "That's Blue," Gay added with a note of finality in his voice.

The hounds led us to a small group of trees about 200 yards from where Charlie dropped the big boar. Charlie charged through the neck-high weeds along the edge of the cornfield and let out a groan, followed by a couple of unmentionable phrases. He'd charged into a hay rake hidden in the weeds, and one of its sharp angle irons matched up with one of his shin bones.

When we arrievd, not one but two sets of eyes were picked up in the lights. We tried to get photos of the nearest, now more than fifteen feet up in a small tree. But the leaves were too thick. Those same thick leaves apparently spoiled Charlie's aim. The coon came down, bit a couple of dogs, then

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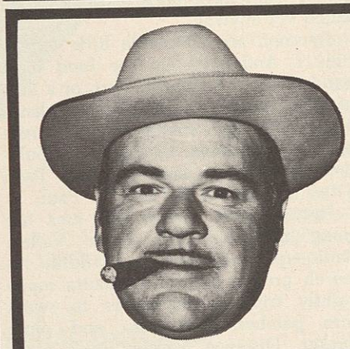

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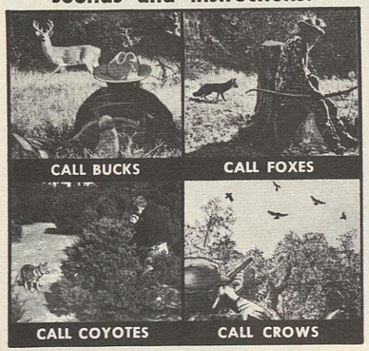

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charged away through heavy weeds and when we caught up, the hounds were baying in both ends of a culvert in a small road that ran along the woods.

That coon was safe in the culvert, and the only reason we can think of for him coming out on his own was that he was wounded and just plain fighting mad at the harassing dogs. We got a camera readied and the coon started to work out. All of the hounds eyed him. Moving like an Apache about to sneak into the center of a company of Blue Coats, he pussy-footed to the end of the culvert. The coon stuck about 2 inches of his head out and a dog nailed him. The entire pack swarmed in to help.

That ring-tailed warrior was a fighter to his last breath, and it's hard to realize there's that much ferocity in a friendly, almost playful-looking rascal like a raccoon. He's really a sporting animal and deserves game species status if sportiness is any criterion, though he doesn't get the honor in Minnesota where he is a predator.

The eleven-hound pack they hunted with that night was more for enjoyment of the Northern spectators than for any practical application.

"Sometimes we let the whole pack go, but normally we run them three to five to a pack," Charlie explained. "Eleven hounds are too many for efficiency. And these pups really don't do much yet anyway."

Raccoon are adaptable little opportunists. And they eat the food most handy, whether crayfish, corn or a host of other things. But they like farmland, oak forests and stream or lake areas best. In Minnesota, the highest populations are found south of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Hottest spots within this area are along the Minnesota River Valley. Radio-equipped coon in a wildlife research project in South Dakota made nightly trips in September to sweet corn patches, field corn and plum thicket. Distance traveled each night from a day retreat to a night food source was from one to 1¾ miles. That's why selection of a hunting site near proper habitat is important, as experienced coon hunters know.

Though some states have even established habitat management programs specifically to increase coon populations, they are considered predators or unprotected with no season in Minnesota, South Dakota and most of Wisconsin where there is a county option. There is no bag limit in any of these three states.

Non resident licenses costing about $25.00 are required in Minnesota and Wisconsin and only a $3.00 predator license is required for non residents in South Dakota and Wisconsin but that is not required for Minnesota residents.

That's why, come next fall, four gentlemen with a Tennessee drawl will point their pickups northward again to take advantage of the Upper Midwest's lightly-tapped coon hunting bonanza.

Write for Info.

(Continued from page 3)

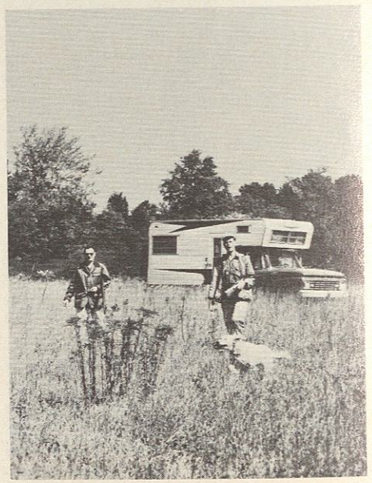
of the nation's most impressive, conveniently situated in North Little Rock's Burns Park.

Overnight recreational locales developed by the Corps of Engineers are mostly open, park-like areas devoted to water sports. Major features are the availability of fresh water, central rest rooms and boat launching ramps.

Those of the U.S. National Forest Service are more rustic, but have belts of greenery separating individual tent and trailer sites. Such planting strips insure more privacy for your party.

While in the past decade over 75 public campgrounds have been added to the Arkansas state park system, the hope of the future lies with the intensive efforts being made on behalf of campers everywhere by Governor Dale Bumpers. In early 1971, he announced to the legislature a development program that will more than triple the net worth of the Arkansas State Parks System. Voted into law, this expansion, improvement and development program is already underway.

Just as more modern campsites are developing throughout Arkansas, so new ones are in the planning stage. Such as DeGray Reservoir near Arkadelphia in Clark County. This exciting new recreation area has been placed on the active list for park and camping improvements. At DeGray an estimated $5,360,100 will be spent in state and



Fall is a great time for camping and Arkansas is a favorite state.

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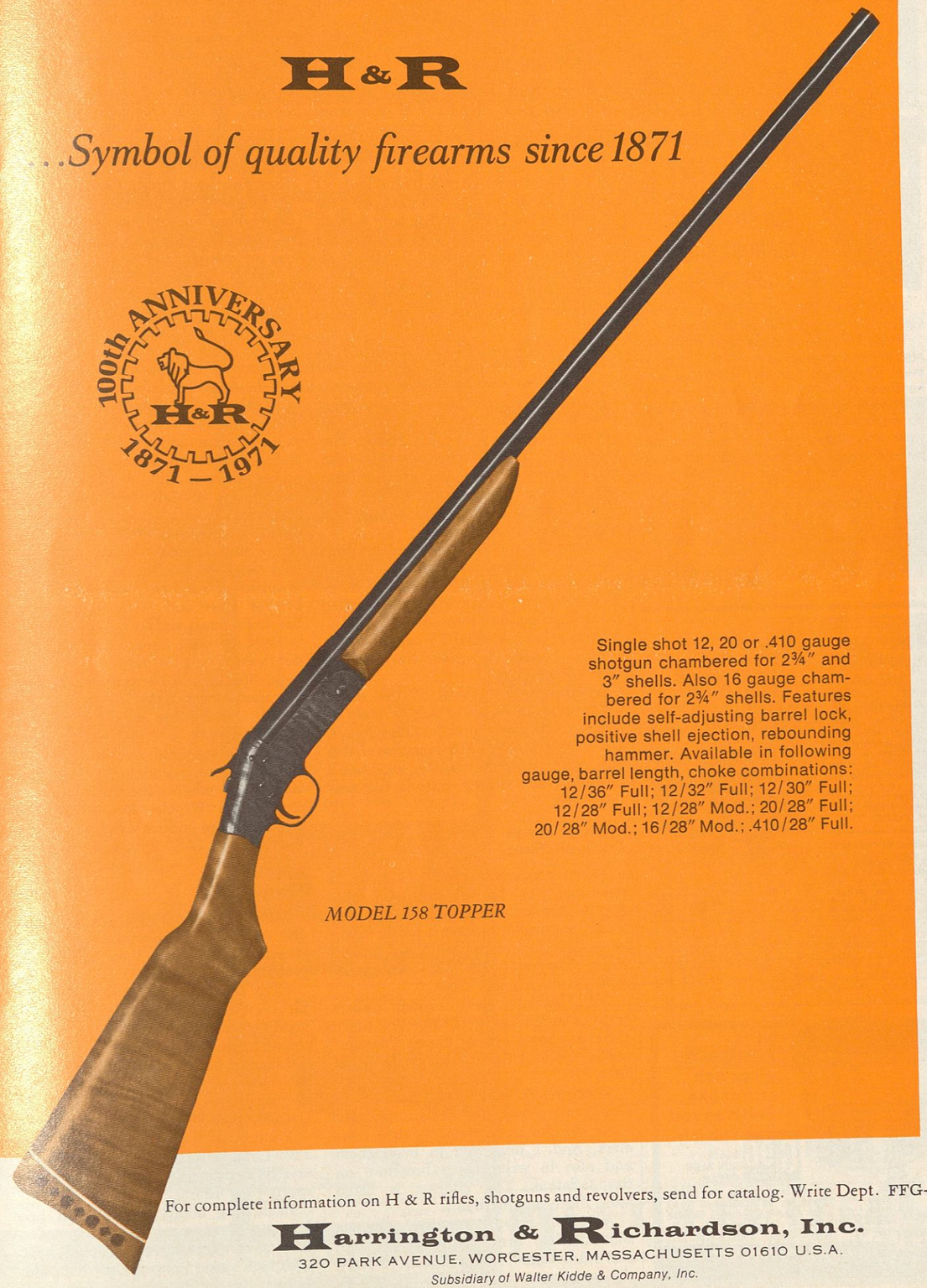

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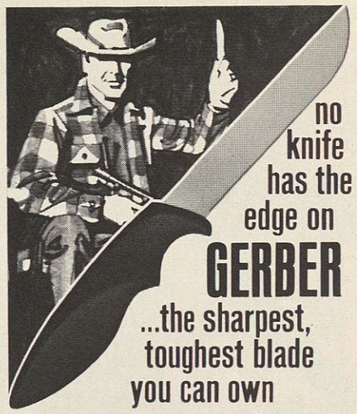

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More than 170 Arkansas campgrounds offer a selection from more than 3,500 individual campsites.

Luxury Trailers Move into Scene

Recently I had a chance to look over the new Excella 500 Airstream travel trailer. And I was amazed at the luxury now being built into camping trailers.

To begin with, it is 31 feet long. It has a 12,000 BTU air conditioner plus a built-in AM/FM radio and 8-track stereo tape deck with four balanced speakers. There is even a telephone jack for extended stays in luxury campgrounds. It is now possible to get telephone service at some of these campgrounds.

All Excella windows are treated with Scotchtint, developed by the 3M Co. This material works like a one-way mirror. The silvered effect on the window prevents looking in, but does not restrict the view from the inside. The windows also cut down by 81% the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. It also reduces heat from the sun.

Wardrobes in the trailer light up when the door is opened!

There are special recoil gadgets that unwind or rewind the 50-foot 110 volt power line and the 50-foot water hose. The trailer has an automatic dishwasher using a minimum of water.

Also it has a special TV antenna that can be raised or turned by switches inside the trailer.

These are just some of the many features of this unit which is built in Cerrito, California, and Jackson Center, Ohio. And some of the features of this Airstream certainly may be what we'll be seeing in camping units in the next few years.

Watch Those Camper Tires

When people's lives are at stake, a man can't be too careful. And this applies particularly if you are pulling a camping trailer or have a motor home or a slide-in camper on your pickup truck. The safety of your own family is involved in many cases.

All of us have seen camping trailers or truck-mount campers careening down the road. Some appear to sway dangerously. Some of this fault may lie in the tires.

Recently, R. L. French, manager of Goodyear's truck tire design, put out some tips for recreational vehicle travelers. And I urge you to heed them and also to write for a brochure on tire inflation. The address is listed later. Here are his tips:

Avoid overloading tires. Owners should select tires of the proper size and load range (or ply rating) to carry the maximum load to be placed in their recreational vehicles.

Distribute loads properly. Lopsidedness of the load within the recreational vehicle can create safety hazards by making driving difficult and causing tire wear. Vehicle loads should be spread around evenly.

Avoid heat build-up. The greatest enemy of the recreational vehicle's tires, or tires of any other vehicle, is excessive heat. It reduces tire strength and increases the possibility of failure. Excessive heat buildup can be avoided by following the manufacturer's recommendations on inflation pressures, by selecting the proper tire size and avoiding overloading the tires.

Follow proper inflation. Tire pressures should be checked before beginning a day's driving while the tires are cold. Hot tires must never be bled to reduce what appears to be too much pressure. Tire pressure automatically, and harmlessly, increases as a tire rolls over the pavement surface. Tires should not be inflated beyond the manufacturer's recommendations, and an underinflated tire should not be driven on.

Inspect tires daily. A quick but effective means of detecting and avoiding potential trouble is the "once-over-lightly" technique before beginning a day's driving. Look for signs of excessive wear or premature deterioration. Remove debris, such as small stones, bits of glass and other objects, from the tire's tread surface.

Replace worn tires. Once the tread depth of a tire is worn to 1/16 of an inch, tires should be replaced. In some late model tires, tread depth indicators appear when this stage is reached. Others require a tread depth gauge check to determine removal point.

A brochure containing tire inflation tables and other important details on recreational vehicle tires is available from the Tire Industry Safety Council, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Are Bass Threatened?

Missouri's Department of Conservation is raising a question that should concern all anglers. Very simply, the problem is:

Does the fully-armed fisherman, replete with modern gear like fish-finders, good boats and other tools, pose a threat to quality bass fishing?

Missouri has brought this problem to the fore in a series of news releases prepared by Joel M. Vance of the Conservation Department.

Vance tells the story of Don Brehm, a St. Louis outboard motor dealer, who says he is concerned with the future of sports bass fishing.

In talking about sophisticated bass fishing gear, we mean that many anglers now have specially constructed boats with high speed motors, electric trolling motors, fish locators, temperature indi-

T 450 — **The Elk's Call** — Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the Coming Year — **C. M. Russell**

T 432 — **Fishing the Beautiful Brook** — May the meaning of the Season be deeper, etc. — **Van Howd**

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T 442 — **Starlit Pronghorn** — Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year — **Lenox**

T 443 — **Bighorn on the Ridges** — Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year — **Peters**

T 434 — **Bobwhite Flushed** — May there come to you an abundance of the precious things, etc. — **Van Howd**

T 436 — **Fishing for Bass** — May there come to you this holiday time the precious things, etc. — **Van Howd**

T 446 — **Ruffed Grouse in Snowy Cover** — May the Christmas Spirit remain within your hearts, etc. — **Booth**

T 435 — **"In the heart of the wilderness"** — May Peace be your Gift at Christmas, etc. — **Barks**

T 453 — **Rainbow Wilderness** — With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year — **Van Howd**

T 452 — **"In Wildness is the Preservation of the World"** — With every good wish for Christmas — **Peters**

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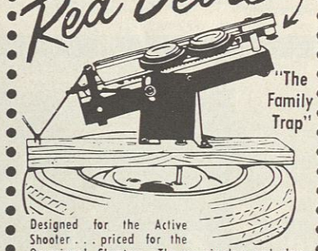

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cators and several pre-rigged rods. All this runs into several thousand dollars and is very effective.

Now here is how Brehm, the outboard dealer, see the threat.

"In one recent season," he said, "my good friend, Jim Aaron, and I made seven trips to a well-known Midwestern impoundment where we boated over 240 bass which weighed over two pounds each. We released an equal number of smaller fish.

"Let's multiply it even further. If ten boats with twenty fishermen were tossing lures at the same time, this would amount to 2,400 bass. Multiply this by 100 boats and 200 fishermen, which is a more realistic figure for this lake on any given weekend. This gives 24,000 bass.

"That's about 48,000 pounds of fish in a single season. How many lakes can stand such a fish removal?"

The largemouth bass is the most sought-after trophy fish in Missouri. It is the most widely distributed of the "big" fish and the most caught.

Missouri's big impoundments have gained a reputation as bass lakes, a reputation which, if Brehm's fears are justified, they may be in danger of losing in the coming years.

Fisheries personnel at the Department of Conservation believe there is little danger that the total number of bass could be seriously affected by continued intense pressure by good fishermen in most Missouri impoundments.

But the number of big bass can be reduced. Brehm has a scrapbook filled with pictures of him holding aloft, with some effort, stringers of bass which most anglers never see in a lifetime or at least didn't until today's modern equipment has the potential to make virtually anyone an ace.

Only in the last decade has the number of outstanding bass fishermen jumped because of better equipment. Fish locators and other technical devices, plus the development of such "killer" baits as plastic worms, plus the availability of good, sound, easy-to-follow information can make a successful bass fisherman out of nearly everyone.

There is no doubt that fishing pressure increases on Missouri lakes every year. There also is no doubt that fishing techniques have improved tremendously over the past decade. There is no doubt that more people have more time to spend fishing.

Take all these factors together and there is no doubt that fish are in more danger from fishermen today than they ever have been.

Many Rave About Fishing Book

Recently, the Department of the Interior brought out a monumental book, titled "Sport Fishing U.S.A." The book is being acclaimed by many reviewers.

And it is quite a project. It contains 464 pages with many photographs plus 21 color paintings by artist Bob Hines. The introduction is done by Curt Gowdy and then the book swings into details on fish migration, feeding, breeding and management. There are chapters on water pollution, equipment and other subjects.

The book costs $10, which is plenty in this inflated age. It may be that you will want to look it over at your public library before buying it. You can get it by check or money order, payable to Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

There are also government printing office bookstores in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington.

If you want to see how book prices have been inflated, just consider this. In 1964, the Department of Interior brought out its famous "Waterfowl Tomorrow." If anything this waterfowl book is bigger than the fishing book. Yet the waterfowl book costs $4 in 1964 compared to the $10 now being asked for the fishing book.

And this brings me around to one of my pet gripes. Many book prices are inflated and many of the books now being published are questionable buys at the prices being asked.

The "Slob Hunter"

(Continued from page 4)

the result they have established by-laws to eliminate the undesirable character and have pledged themselves to helping to improve the hunter's image.

In a letter from Michael Carrico, secretary of the N.I.H.A., he notes, "we are organizing here in Northern Indiana and only high caliber hunters are accepted. We are putting 'conservation first,' and we are trying to bring the image of the good hunter out for the public to see. Our by-laws are strict but we mean business.

"Our members are going to put up a fight against anti-hunting organizations, like the Committee for Humane Legislation Inc."

The NIHA secretary continues—"Our members encourage you to write more articles in defense of hunting and make more hunters become aware of the unjust judges of our sport. We wish the good hunters in other states would organize like us and make an attempt to bring back the good sportsmen as a conservation-minded citizen."

Mike sent along a copy of the NIHA by-laws and they are very interesting. For instance: Mandatory: unlawful for any member to violate any game laws; Property: must always ask permission before entering private or state-owned lands; Firearms: must know all laws pertaining to gun handling; no drinking while hunting; etc.

Another section states that—"While afield hunting or fishing, a member of NIHA shall conduct himself in a manner to bring credit to his club and to his community." Under duties, a section notes—"It shall be mandatory that each club member perform at least one task yearly pertaining to the preservation and conservation of wildlife and the natural resources of Indiana."

We heartily congratulate the Northern Indiana Hunting Association for their efforts in helping to improve the image of the true sportsman. We need more clubs to follow the NIHA line and help eliminate the "slob hunter." After all, if it wasn't for that unwanted character, the arguments of the anti-hunting elements in our society wouldn't even be able to hold water. But, as long as he's around, making the news headlines, riling up landowners, destroying property, violating laws, wantonly killing game, etc., the position of the legitimate hunter will continue to deteriorate. It's up to the responsible sportsman to "clean his own house," if he hopes to save the grand sport of hunting!

Volunteer Game Cops

Niagara County in Western New York State has employed the use of Volunteer Game Cops and they have helped considerably in the battle against the "slob hunter." The force was originated by the County Federation of Conservation Clubs and it is composed of volunteer sportsmen from all sections of the county. The sheriff cooperates in their program and all are sworn in by him, and carry I.D. cards and badges bearing the inscription "Special Conservation Deputy Sheriff."

The force is unique in that they have no uniforms, and use their personal cars with small identifying emblems. Their main purpose is to roam the fields, especially during pheasant hunting season, and report any violation to the Sheriff's office, who in turn, usually refers them to the conservation officer. In most cases, the offending hunter doesn't even know he has been caught, for the unmarked officers merely record his backpatch number and relays the information to the head office. If there is a potentially unsafe condition involved, then an arrest is made on the spot. The deputies are especially alert for nuisance violations—shooting too close to homes, shooting too close to, or across highways, trespassing without permission, etc.

Niagara County law enforcement officials have nothing but high praise for the volunteer sportsmen and have recorded significant drops in the number of landowner complaints received during the fall bird hunting season. This fact is important to the responsible sportsmen in many ways; not only does it look good in the newspapers, but it has helped solidify a much stronger bond between sportsmen and farmer.

If any sportsmen's group would like to know more about the Niagara County volunteer game cop setup, drop this writer a note.

National Hunting and Fishing Day

Possibly by the time you read this it will have happened, we hope so.

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Hunters and fishermen will get national recognition for their contribution to conservation if Congress passes a Senate Joint Resolution which was introduced by Sen. Thomas James McIntyre of New Hampshire. S.J.Resolution 117 asks that President Nixon declare the fourth Saturday of each September "National Hunting and Fishing Day."

Sen. McIntyre said, "since there is no present national recognition of the many and worthwhile contributions of the American hunter and angler, I am asking Congress and the President to declare this special day. Hunters and anglers traditionally have led in the effort to preserve our natural resources."

In calling for a "National Hunting and Fishing Day," Sen. McIntyre said, "In the congestion and the complexities, the tensions and frustrations of today's life, the need for outdoor recreation, the opportunity to 'get away from it all,' has become of crucial importance. There are few pursuits providing a better chance for healthy exercise, peaceful solitude, and appreciation of the great outdoors than hunting and fishing."

Atlantic Salmon Meeting Fails

The future of the Atlantic salmon has received a serious setback. In an earlier writing we explained the sad plight of those choice gamefish and how the Danes were over-exploiting the resource by netting young fish on the high seas, showing little or no regard for the future of the species. A spring meeting between the concerned parties was termed a vital session.

Now we have received word that fishermen's hopes to see Atlantic salmon runs restored to New England rivers were jarred by an early June decision of the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), to allow continued high seas salmon netting off West Greenland.

U. S. conservationists have protested netting by Danish commercial fishermen in the area, ever since the salmon's oceanic feeding grounds were discovered there in 1964. The Danes have been taking the immature salmon with nylon drift-nets, before the young fish can return to their native rivers to spawn.

At the ICNAF meeting, U. S. delegates backed a Canadian proposal which, were it to have passed, would have reduced the Danish Atlantic salmon catch in the international waters by twenty per cent in 1972. The Danish proposal, which received the necessary two-thirds majority, maintains present vessel and catch tonnage limits through 1973. The U. S. conservation effort was clearly defeated by the European countries who voted in a solid economic bloc.

What to do now is not clear. We would suggest continued and accelerated letter writing efforts to the Danish Embassy in Washington, as well as the U. S. State Dept. voicing great concern and displeasure over the Danish practice of netting young salmon. Somehow, some way, we must achieve a high seas netting moratorium if we hope to save the Atlantic salmon from extinction.

Close Range Moose

(Continued from page 7)

Frankly, I didn't think that anybody could stop a charging moose at a range of less than 40 feet, which was about all the open space I would have available in which to stop him. There wouldn't be time for a side shot, if he crossed the road and went into the bush beyond. He'd either be coming my way or going his own before I could line up the sights, I thought, and if he went down the road, away from me, I couldn't get in a killing shot.

I waited, though, and he solved the problem for me, by stopping dead in his tracks about 50 feet from the road, and sneaking away.

After waiting for a few minutes, I went in and found his tracks, roughly nearly six inches long. An old bull, I thought, wiser than the younger males who range the woods engorged by the autumn lust to mate. He'd been stopped by my scent, eddying around me and into the forest, and it had warned him away, rather than driven berserk, as it had the bull below Manitouwadge.

By now, during the off-season, whenever I thought of moose hunting, I was trying to find some method of inducing the moose to appear far enough away from me so that I would have time to shoot, and also far enough away so that I wouldn't be pounded into the ground if I missed, and he personally resented my intentions. Most hunters, I eventually learned, spend equal amounts of time and effort in trying to figure out a way to get closer to this big-game quarry of the North. So far, I'd been having the opposite problem.

I finally succeeded in my ambitions one fall, when I called a young bull out of the bush a whole 40 yards away, and brought him down in an almost anticlimatic conclusion to the search for my first moose.

I still wonder, sometimes, more in awe than apprehension, what would have happened below Manitouwadge if I'd stayed at my calling site, or what would have occurred at Gogama if the charging bull had come crashing out of the bush and into my sights at a range of less than 40 feet. I could have backed up, I guess, and got a few more feet. But not much more. The road was covered with undergrowth.

Of course, I've learned since that most moose are wary animals, difficult

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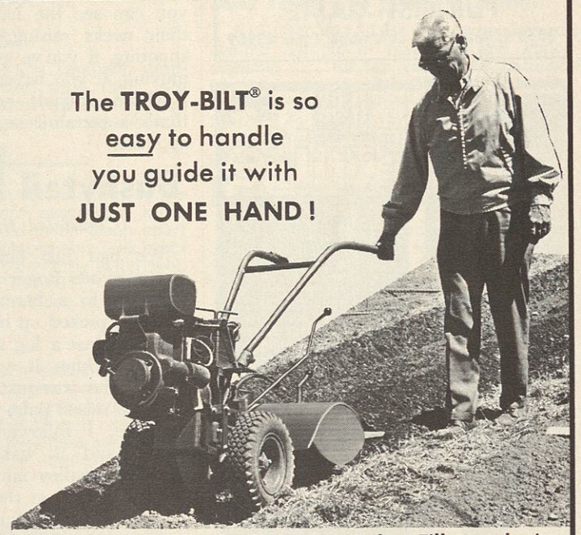

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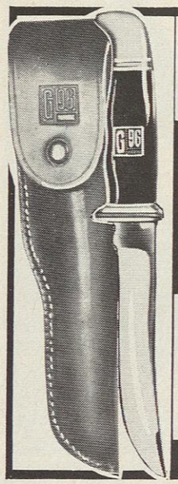

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most of the time to decoy within range of a well-placed bullet, particularly so in areas that are now getting heavily hunted, but I had met two who weren't so wary during my first few years of hunting these animals—even the old bull moose of the Gogama encounter hadn't behaved with the wisdom of his years—and you can be certain of the fact that there are a few more like them around, somewhere in the bush.

And in support of this contention, I can always cite the legend of the unarmed trapper who scaled a 60 foot pine wearing snowshoes and a packsack after meeting a mad bull moose on the trail, and although this tale of the encumbered yet swift ascent may be more apocryphal than fact, at the moment, you may some day have to get your snowshoes off in a heck of a hurry, and your packsack too, in order to keep it apocryphal.

As one old trapper once told me, if you can see the hair on the back of their necks raising, it's time to start shooting, if you've got a rifle, or to get moving, if you haven't.

These animals can be dangerous, that's a certainity especially if they're up close.

Bushytail Knowhow

(Continued from page 9)

We had just lighted a couple of smokes when Roger slowly lowered his cigarette to a bare rock next to his position, picked up his rifle, and settled down against a log near where he sat. He had done it so casually that I thought he was just testing his sights until his raised palm cut me off in mid-sentence. I followed the line of his barrel, and it was pointed directly across the valley into a small stand of oaks clustered on the creek bed.

He didn't move for a full 30 seconds, and the words asking what he was doing all but left my lips when his little .22 cracked, the sharp report echoing up and down the misty valley. Then even my eyes caught the dark spot dropping from one of the oaks across the creek, followed by a faint thrashing in the carpet of autumn-killed leaves.

"Best shot so far this year," he remarked, bolting another round into his rifle and standing up to retreive his second squirrel. The shot had been so exceptional, and well over 50 yards, that I decided to give Roger the silent treatment and see his reaction. He didn't wait for my remark, but strode down the slope, only the jaunty bounce of his step showing that he, too, was pleased with the shot. The squirrel, when he had brought it back, was found to be drilled neatly through both shoulders.

The next shot should have been a lot easier than Roger's, but my fumbling made it more difficult. We were strolling along the creekbed, hoping to flush squirrels as they crept to the water to drink. We were right on the water when I heard the telltale swish of leaves as a grey leaped from one tree to another, the foliage of his airborne highway giving away his position. I was still trying to pinpoint the squirrel when it suddenly appeared 40 feet away in the main crotch of a maple. There were a couple of small twigs just this side of the squirrel, so I decided to let it continue closer to the creek before shooting. It moved a few feet closer, and just then the morning sun lanced its blinding rays over the ridgetop, backlighting the squirrel beautifully, but also making it impossible to look directly at the animal. I kept the safety of my rifle off and tried to be patient until the animal moved again.

Finally the grey decided that all was clear, and began creeping down the trunk of a nearby beech, stopping every foot or so to make sure it was safe to leave the trees for his morning drink.

I had just found his head in my sights when he ducked into some bushes growing at the base of the beech, out of sight again. I waited impatiently, my hands beginning to perspire. Then he appeared again not ten feet from my boots, and I swiveled to try a shot before he discovered me. He saw the movement and ran back up the hill in long bounds, his tail flicking like a trailing beagle's.

I'll get a shot at him, anyway, I told myself, and put the front bead on a spot at the base of the tree he was running for. When he had just a half leap to go before reaching the tree I got the shot off. He did a backward somersault, and played a tatoo on the leaves.

When I picked him up I found that my little .22 slug had never touched him. The tiny bullet had struck the tree just as the squirrel's head made for the same spot, and the small concussion of the impact had knocked him cold. It didn't take me long to drop that squirrel, against the possibility of him coming alive and chomping my hand. A quick rap behind the ears with the butt of my rifle ended any chance of him eluding me again in the morning sunlight.

By noon each of us had taken three greys, two short of our combined limit of eight squirrels, but plenty for deep-fried meat that evening. We had used less than 50 cents worth of ammunition, and a very few minutes spent with oil rags and cleaning rods had our .22s clean and ready to be safely stored until next time. The next day I had to be back on the job up in Illinois, but the memories of that fine hunt already have me making plans for another squirrel hunt.

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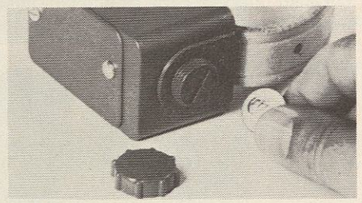

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Fish & Tackle

By Erwin and Parker Bauer

Try Carp for Action

If you were to stage a popularity contest between carp and, say, castor oil, there wouldn't be any winner. Yet carp are more abundant and more available to anglers than any other fish in America. Since their introduction here in 1877, they've spread like ants at a picnic.

On light tackle carp are tough battlers, and specimens of 50 pounds and heavier have been taken. They are abundant within a short drive of almost anyone's home and seldom difficult to catch. The trouble is that many fishermen won't discard the common prejudice that carp are fish of polluted water, low in food value, and as worthless as a one-way ticket to Gary, Indiana. The truth is, though, that carp also thrive in pure water, they're tasty and nutritious eating and far more exciting when hooked than some so-called game species.

There's a stream near my Ohio home which was once numbered among the greatest smallmouth bass rivers in the nation. Unfortunately, farming practices and an Army Corps of Engineers dam have changed all that, and few anglers bother to fish there any more. But a few seasons back the very scarcity of anglers on the stream attracted me to it. The bass fishing turned out to be a bust, and to my disgust the larger pools were loaded with carp.

I had all the carp prejudices, and what happened the following week surprised me more than anyone else. Somehow I found myself on the stream flipping dough balls and wearing a big hat so no one would recognize me. Before long a carp was mouthing the bait. I set the hook and I figured I had him, the noxious monster. But the line flew off my reel and all I could do was hold tight. I figured the carp weighed at least fifteen pounds and I didn't know whether to be disappointed or elated when I finally grounded a 4-pounder about ten minutes later.

I hooked five more carp and landed three of them that day. I managed the largest one, a nine-pounder, only after chasing it far downstream and manuvering it around the roots of several sycamores. I've fished there many times since and have shown many former skeptics how thrilling carp actually can be. Since the river is only about a fifteen-minute drive from my home, that's where I'm likely to be found on any summer or spring evening.

For more than 2000 years pond-raised carp have been an important part of the national diets of China and Japan, and the species was introduced into Europe before 600 A.D. But carp didn't imigrate to America until the late 19th century when Rudolph Hessel, a fish culturist for the United States government, successfully shipped 345 carp from Hochst, Germany, to New York, all of which were stocked in holding ponds on Boston's Druid Hill. Soon 113 of them were transferred to Babcock Lake in Washington, D.C.

Carp specimens of 50 pounds and heavier have been taken.

It wasn't long before Americans everywhere demanded breeding stock of this fish which they knew nothing about. Government fisheries "experts" made glowing promises to outdoorsment about the species' game potential. So in 1883 there went to 298 congressional districts some 260,000 carp, leaving only three districts carpless. And now American waters from coast to coast are enriched — contaminated, if you prefer — with the descendent of those 345 carp. Scientific studies indicate that the intruders are here to stay, and fishermen might as well make the best of a bad situation.

The same tackle used for bass and other game fish is also fine for carp. Casting, fly and spinning rods are all used. Cane poles are also popular, but a casting outfit is often a necessity in order to reach schools of carp which lie some distance from shore.

An ultralight spinning outfit provides the greatest sport, but you shouldn't underestimate the power of ten pounds of carp. With a light line there are plenty of breaks in this game, and carp have demolished more than one unwitting panfisherman's tackle. Still I'm convinced the only way to rig for carp is ultralight.

Baits used for carp are almost as numerous as carp themselves but the doughball is probably the favorite. Many carp fishermen like to brag about their secret recipes, but most of these simply involve boiling flour with certain other ingredients such as sugar, corn syrup, molasses, licorice, root and anise. A carp expert I know, if there's such a thing, reports good catches using doughballs made from bread which he kneads in his hands. He insists that spitting on the bread not only helps greatly in holding it on the hook but also helps increase his catch. On days when his luck runs low he kneads a little corn meal into the bread. If he gets no action and the water washes the bread off the hook twice he moves to a new fishing spot.

Its important that the doughball not cover the hook completely. The best baits cover only the bend and the point of the hook. When carp become sluggish in midsummer they'll often mouth a bait a few seconds and then spit it out. If you think this is your trouble, cover only the point of the hook and strike as soon as you feel the fish inspecting the bait. This is probably the only effective method for catching carp that are seemingly curious but not hungry.

Other popular carp baits include such naturals as nightcrawlers, minnows

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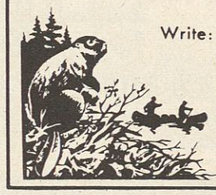

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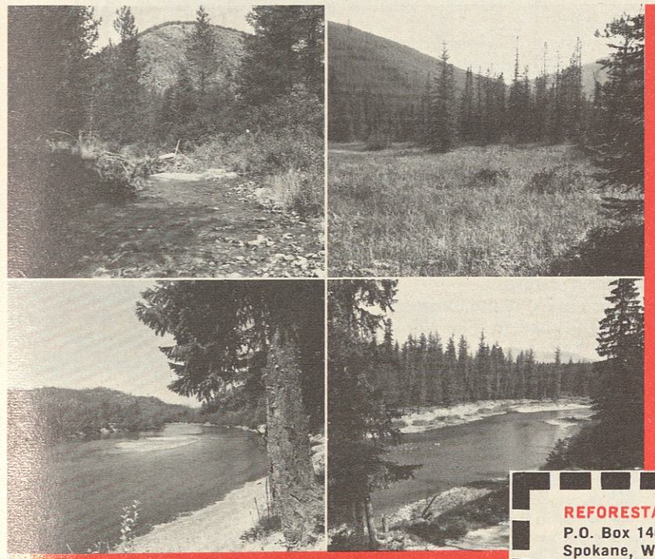

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and crawfish. Many kinds of vegetables including tomatoes, beans, potatoes and peas are particularly good. I've taken carp in Lake Erie on spinners when fishing for bass and walleyes, but these are exceptions to the usual feeding patterns.

My favorite bait is canned sweetcorn. First I throw a handful of kernels in a pool where the carp are likely to feed. After this chumming I string enough kernels on a hook to cover the point and bend. I use the light spinning outfit so split shot will not be necessary to cast the corn. Carp sometimes spit the bait back out when they feel the weight of a split shot. After the hook is baited I cast it into the middle of the scattered kernels and wait. Before long a carp may begin to sample the bait. I immediately flip the bail so the carp can strip line off the spool when he begins to run. After he has moved ten or twenty feet away I set the hook and start chasing downstream.

After the spring spawning season carp may be taken in the early morning by stalking along a river bank and watching for the fish to roll in the weeds and mud. Be alert because only a fin or tail may be visible. When you spot a carp, cast your bait beyond it to avoid frightening it. Then slowly reel back in. If the water is clear enough you may be able to see the fish mouth the bait, inhale it and then run with it. That's the time to drive the hook home hard.

A friend of mine, a 20-pound-carp specialist, recommends freshwater clams for bait. He collects a good stock of clams and opens them up until they get a strong enough smell to suit him. He cuts them up the evening before fishing, and baits a place in the river where he's seen some of the jumbos splashing. The next morning he fishes the spot with another piece of clam on his hook. He claims this method also works for log-sized catfish.

It happens that Isaak Walton was an avid carp fisherman, and in *The Complete Angler* the baits he recommends are "meadow worms." Walton's carp sorties, of course, were greatly handicapped because there were no reels at

On light tackle, carp are tough battlers and offer plenty of sport.

that time and his line was tied directly to the rod. When he hooked a big carp he'd heave his rod into the water, and when the fish had tired of dragging the tackle around Walton would retrieve the rod and finish the fight. Today's carp anglers should be that inventive.

Autumn Northerns

(Continued from page 11)

We then motored to the lake's northwest end and walked across another portage to Townline Lake, a large body of water that Dan assured me held untold numbers of hungry pike among sprawling, underwater weedbeds.

Huge rafts of canvasbacks and bluebills skittered from the water as we came into view of Townline. We made a few perfunctory casts from shore and I caught a small northern, a sign that we both took to be a good omen.

When we awoke the next day, the rising sun painted the landscape in a brilliant hue of gold as the chrome reds, yellows and browns of the birch and poplar trees shone vividly against the morning sky.

We grabbed a quick breakfast and headed for Townline Lake. The two portages had taken us deep into the depths of the national forest.

After slipping our boat into the waters of Townline, Funk steered the boat on a course designed to take us to the vast underwater weedbeds that afforded food and cover for lurking, hungry pike.

When we reached the weedbeds, Funk cut the engine and we began casting. We let the lures run deep as we attempted to snake them through the weeds without getting hung-up. But the kelp-like weeds proved too dense for us to drag our lures through without getting snagged.

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We soon learned to let our lures skim the top of the weeds and it wasn't long before Dan jerked back his rod and announced he had one on.

The fish, larger than normal, began taking line from Dan's light spinning rod. But Funk displayed his expertise by straining the line to the limit without breaking it and turning the pike. The pike then swam sideways and weeds floated to the surface as the line cut them on the pike's deep sweeps.

But the fish eventually tired, turned on its side and permitted itself to be brought to the boat. It appeared to weigh about twelve pounds.

When it came within six feet of the gunwales, the spoon lodged in the corner of the pike's mouth suddenly pulled loose and fluttered toward the bottom. The pike momentarily lay on its side unaware of its freedom. Then it slowly sank downward and disappeared, like a ghost from the depths.

We were both too stunned to talk. We sat there trying to comprehend why the hook held during the pike's viscious actions, only to pull loose when resistance was almost nil.

Finally Dan broke the silence.

"I'm going to land the next big one," Funk declared as he rigged a casting rod.

We continued casting over the deep weedbeds as our boat drifted downwind. But the pike remained in the three-to-five-pound class as we had expected.

Funk returned to his spinning rod as we played the splashing, happy "hammerhandles" or "snakes", as the small northerns are called up north.

By noon we had fought and released more than a score of small pike and headed ashore to prepare lunch of sausage, cheese and white wine and a brief rest.

When we returned to the lake, we decided to quit the weedbeds and cast the shorelines. We quickly discovered the northerns in the shallows also were anxious to leave their protective lairs beside trees that had fallen into the water and grab our bait.

As with most northern fishing, we reeled slowly and kept the lure relatively high.

When the day ended, we had caught more than enough fish to satisfy our desires. Never did our thoughts turn to business that we were momentarily trying to escape.

And never did we see another stranger at our campsite or while we were fishing. Occasionally, we would hear the distant report of a grouse hunter's shotgun as he stalked the hilly, lake-studded country in pursuit of the whirring pat's.

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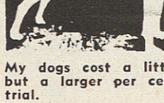

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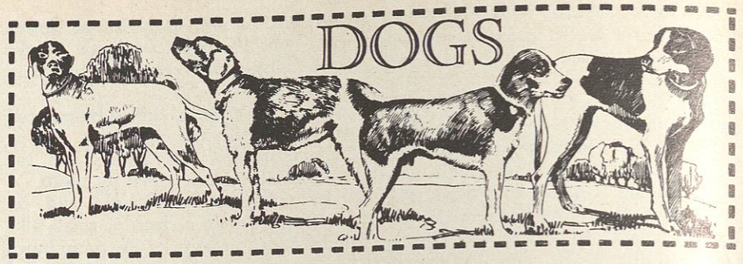


Family Hunting Dog

By David O'Connor

It is quite possible to hunt with dogs that are excellent in the field and good companions at home. There are many breeds that can be confined to apartment living during much of the year and still respond to the discipline required of a good retriever.

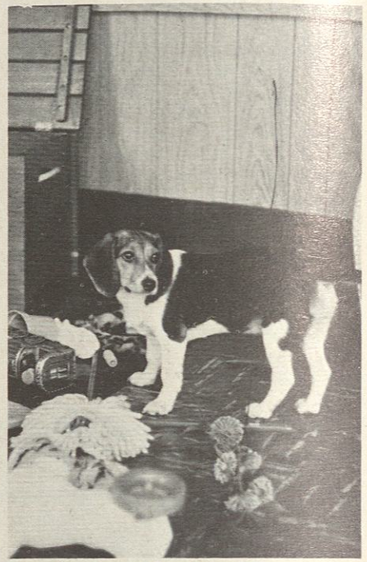
Individual dogs that are nervous, high strung animals are most often a poor choice under any conditions. If the dog is hard to reach with training procedures he may be equally unstable under the coffee table.

Keeping them around you adds to the personal relationship between man and animal. The more exposure you have to each other the better the chances the dog will want to please you.

If the only time the man enters the picture is to feed, water and see to health needs, it doesn't seem reasonable to expect that the dog will be raring to please. An animal, like his human master, must be stimulated by the surroundings.

Being locked up where there are no other animals or people is not the best accommodation. Look at your own kennel. Imagine that you are a dog with 24 hours a day to kill on the end of a chain or in a run.

Is there sufficient stimulus to entertain the dog? Another dog or at least some thing to chew on, or even something to play with. The results can be dramatic. A dog, just like a person, doesn't become anti-social without a reason. Some dogs have so little contact with people that the sight and smell of them brings forth a fear.



Our beagle, Molunkus Chase, to me represents a rabbit dog. To the kids it's a family pet.

A dog that must be kept in the kennel can be made a good companion. Speaking to him when you feed him, patting him often and taking him out for exercise are all part of the deal in owning a hunting dog.

If there are small kids in the family it is probably better to start with a young pup. In this way the dog grows to become acustomed to them, just as they will do the same for him.

To take a four year old dog that has spent his entire life in the recluse of a kennel and throw him in with a couple of overactive youngsters is asking for trouble.

That isn't to say that that adjustment can never be made but rather that it is more difficult. If sufficient love and care is shown the animal it could work out well. Much of that would depend on your own children and the personality of the hunting dog.

If the accommodations that you live in are limited in space this may affect your choice of a hunting-family combination dog. For instance, an Irish setter may be too large for a mobile home. A beagle might be a better choice.

Suppose that hunting rabbits isn't your favorite kind of sport. You still would like a bird dog but the Irish's size scares you away. Look for another breed that will accomplish what it is you want in the field and will still meet the wife's maximum tolerance. In this case maybe the Brittiany would do the job.

Compromise is always the name of the game. No one dog is going to be an all-around top choice. If you want a breed that will be afield with you in several sports, it is going to be difficult not to lose some of the expertise of the specialists.

A beagle may make a good rabbit hunter and a barely passable retriever. That doesn't mean that he is a poor individual of the breed. It does mean that his specialty is in his nose and not in the area of returning downed game.

Whatever your choice of individual animal or breed, the question of whether or not you're going to be happy with the choice remains with you. If some real effort goes in to making a compromise in taking the family into consideration, the resultant experience will be good.

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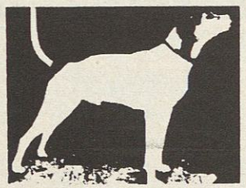

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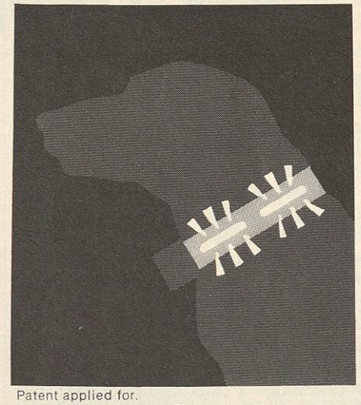

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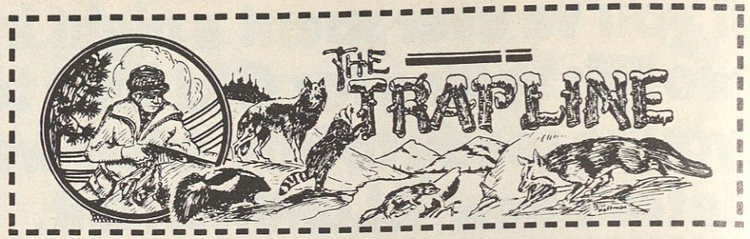

Fox Trapping Tips

By E. J. Dailey

I started studying and trapping fox in about 1910. At that time there were almost no written methods available to the trapper so I had to learn by myself.

I had been told that a fox just couldn't be caught in a trap. That was the general belief at that time, but I believed it was possible to catch any animal in a trap. Like most beginners, I tried trail sets such as old cow and deer paths by making an excavation for a trap, No. 2 long springs being the recognized fox trap at that time. Occasionally I did catch a fox, but they were so rare and the catches of undesired things so great that I soon gave that up and sought something better.

I tried den entrance sets but soon found out that except for females having and rearing pups, that foxes did not live in dens except now and then in below zero weather. Instead they hide out in swamps and wooded tracts, sleeping on stumps or mounds during daytime, ready to jump and run at the slightest disturbance. The few that did enter dens were more cautious than in any other place.

About 1918 I was trapping in a remote section of the Adirondacks and found out how to make dirt-hole sets by accident. On one trip around my fisher and marten 'line I found where a fox had dug a hole and partly buried a rabbit's hind leg. Since it did not or could not dig the hole deep enough, a portion of the foot was visible. It appeared to me the fox that buried the meat would come back after it, so I carefully scooped out an excavation for a trap directly in front of the hole and drove a hardwood stake with the trap ring attached, into the excavation. The trap was placed directly over the stake and I covered the trap pan with a large leaf. About a half inch of dirt was sifted over the entire trap. Before leaving the set I placed about five drops of natural type fox lure on the edge of the hole. On my second trip over the line I had a large, male fox.

These natural dirt hole catches can be imitated by the trapper with excellent results. A hole should be dug about six inches in depth and at a 45 degree angle. It should be from three to five inches in width. Fox dig the holes in various sizes depending whether it is light or heavy soil.

After seventy-one years in the Adirondacks, E. J. Dailey has acquired a lot of knowledge about fox trapping.

Fox spend the days in the woods and come into the clearings at night to hunt mice, rodents, etc. So make the dirt-hole sets in open areas where digging is easy. A small ant-hill with no ants living in it is a very good spot or the edge of a sand-patch or where a stump or log has rotted. Ant-hill dirt has been waxed by ants and will not freeze and some make use of it by carrying it with them to cover traps during extreme cold weather. But most modern fox trappers spray or sprinkle their sets with their favorite anti-freeze when dirt normally freezes at night.

Foxes move most after a rain or a light snow and are one of the animals that move on very cold nights during winter.

If dirt-hole sets are made carelessly using untreated traps or without proper gloves, some foxes will become wise to this or any other fox set. Sometimes a trap-wise fox will ruin a dozen sets in one night by digging in from the back or side or carefully uncovering a portion of the trap. Such a fox can be taken by making the regular dirt-hole set on the edge of a trail, then concealing a second trap about ten feet from the original set.

If a fox does much digging around your sets, make a buried bait set by placing a good sized chunk of flesh bait or several pieces in a hole about six inches in depth, and set a trap right on it. Then fill in the hole with light soil and add a few drops of fox lure or scent on the dirt around the set. The fox, when digging for the bait, will dig into the trap. A larger trap should be used than for dirt-hole and other fox sets. This is also one of our best snow sets.

Traps set for fox should be clean and treated and if new should be lightly rusted before dyeing, then placed in a container of solution made by dissolving one pound of logwood extract or crystals to each three gallons of water. Immerse traps and bring to a boil and simmer ten or fifteen minutes or until a deep blue-black color. Chopped up bark of soft maple, hemlock or oak can be used for dyeing traps but will not be a deep color and is not as permanent as when dyed with logwood. Do not add ashes or lye which is odorous and may damage some traps. One week before trapping time, hang your traps in the open to air out. A few trappers wax their traps, many others do not, but if one wishes to do so, melt enough white beeswax on top of the solution in which you have dyed your traps and when lifted out hot, they will take on the correct amount. Steel or iron trap stakes and pronged drags would be treated the same as traps.

I have found gloves coated with rubber or plastic to be best for trapline purposes as they can be washed readily in any puddle or stream without removing them from the hands.

I learned when young that snow trapping for fox is much more difficult than dirt trapping. Snow is porous and thus a poor trap cover and may thaw or freeze solid at night. Also tracks and sign one leaves is more visible and all tracks within several rods of a set should be brushed out by the aid of an evergreen bough.

The urinating post set is a favorite of most deep snow fox trappers and a small bush, a tall weed or a "snag" sticking up through ice on a stream or lake is best, but an old dead stick can be stuck up so it will be about a foot above snow. The trap should be placed about eight inches from the base of the post and thin plastic or waxed paper placed under and over the trap and then lightly covered. Either fox urine or natural type fox lure is placed on the post rather liberally. This is also a favorite set of many in dirt.

Once a fox is caught in a set, it is a good place to catch another as the fox odor is the best fox attractor known. The same trap can be used but when a trap is moved to a new set, it should be aired out a few days before using. The odor of the fox on the trap may cause foxes to try and dig it up. Catching a skunk and killing it or releasing it at a fox set will also improve the set after it has been out a few nights, but if a 'possum is caught, do not attempt to catch a fox at that set and air out the trap before using it again or retreat it.

While trail sets are not generally recommended, sometimes in snow where several fox tracks are noted in a patch or where there is a break in a woven wire fence, some foxes may be taken in such trails.

Traps should always be covered with materials that match the surroundings at each set and dirt-sets must be covered with dirt. Traps set in snow should be covered with snow. On frozen ground, horse-manure or dry chicken manure may be used.

Where dogs are common, one should

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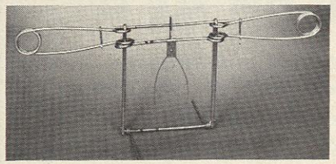

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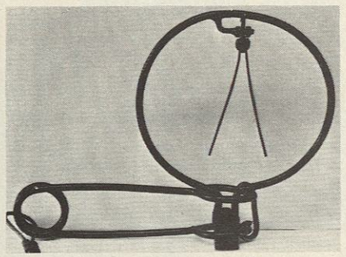

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use smaller traps that will hold most fox but are not apt to hold dogs. If a dog is caught, carry about five feet of small rope with a noose at one end and place the noose over the dog's head and around it's neck. Pull it's head away from the trap and stake the rope and you can then safely step on the trap springs and release the dog and once out of the trap you will have no difficulty in removing the rope.

As to kind and size of traps, most trappers have their own pet fox trap but Blake & Lamb No. 2 double underspring and Victor Coil Spring are both favorites. Where soil is light or dogs plentiful, use No. 21 traps or Oneida jump No. 2 traps. Even good No. 1½ traps, particularly the double coil springs are suitable. Longspring traps will hold fox but are harder to conceal and do not rise up through the necessary covering as well as underspring or jump-type traps.

A little fox urine around dirt sets helps reduce fear in fox when they approach the set and many fox trappers place a few fox droppings around any set.

Modern fox trappers have been having success when trapping in deep snow by placing a trap inside a thin plastic bag and twisting the end. This eliminates the possibility of a fox smelling the trap and helps prevent freezing, but nothing smaller than No. 3 traps should be used as the trap is somewhat handicapped by the bag.

Good bait is just as essential as good lure at a fox sets that require bait and while almost any lean meat can be used, particularly from wild animals, it will have much more attraction if properly aged and tainted or even part decomposed. The way trappers age flesh bait is to cut it up in chunks about the size of a walnut, place it in containers and bury in the ground about eight inches in depth for several months during the summer. Liquid fox bait is being used extensively at present and is made by completely turning flesh to liquid by long aging in a warm or hot place. When used at dirt sets the liquid soaks into the ground and the fox, looking for something to eat, will keep digging for months at places where it is used. During extreme cold weather it gives out more odor than chunk bait which is apt to freeze. Many trappers are now painting their traps used at buried bait sets with liquid fox bait and when this is done, no other bait is necessary.

The mound set rates as the only practical dog-proof set and is best made on top of a small manure pile, but an ant-hill, old muskrat house or some similar mound can be used and the trap and drag is concealed on top of the mound and a large bait placed a few feet from the base and lure placed near the trap on the mound. This is far from being as good as the dirt-hole set but will take some fox without catching dogs or other unwanted catches.

Water sets for fox are not much used at present but are still good for taking a very elusive fox as a trap under water gives out no odor. A small spring which does not freeze easily is best and a trap is placed on a flat rock or sod near the edge of the spring just below water. A thin patch of sod is placed inside the jaws so it will be slightly above water. Just beyond the trap another flat rock or piece of sod is placed to hold the flesh bait and lure or scent. The bait should not be too far from the trap, just enough so the trap forms a bridge for the fox to step on when attempting to take the bait. Water sets can be made elsewhere where water does not rise or lower rapidly. These sets will seldom take anything but fox.

In Northern states early November is about the right time to start to trap fox and by the middle of February one should stop trapping. After that time foxes are faded and have only small fur value and many of them will have part of their fur rubbed off. Southern trappers can start trapping about December first and those trapping in the Central states, a little earlier.

Where legal, foxes are often snared, particularly on deep snow when it is hard to keep a leg-gripping trap in working condition. Usually foxes are snared in trails or holes in fences but they can be induced to follow trails by placing out baits and lures or a good sized chunk of bait can be tossed into a brush thicket and when the fox have established a run through such brush to the bait, a snare is then placed in the run. If you can find a spot where fox tracks prove that the animal is passing through a narrow spot between two trees or bushes, that is a likely spot for a snare. Another good location is above logs that lie over small streams. To hold a snare upright, tie it with fine thread to some support such as a tall weed or small stick.

To properly kill a fox at a set, strike it a light blow on the back of the neck close to the ears with a trowel or handle of a belt axe, just hard enough to knock the fox off it's feet and stun it, then stand on it just back of the front legs several minutes and by so doing you will not have blood in its fur.

Foxes are always skinned and handled as "cased" which means they are first ripped from the heel of one hind foot across to the opposite foot by way of the base of the tail. Rip the tail three quarters of way down, then skin out the legs and tail where ripped and the balance of the tail bone by placing a finger on each side of it. If possible, hang the fox up by the hind feet and

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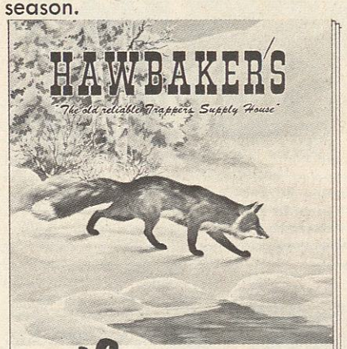
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pull or peel the pelt off over the body, cutting loose at the front feet, ears, eyes and nose or where necessary. Some prefer to also rip the front legs to the body and skinning them out before hanging the carcass up. There is usually not much fat on a fox pelt but if there is, place it on a wooden stretcher or fleshing board and scrape it and all chunks of meat off.

A fox stretcher for most fox should be about 48 inches in length, width at base-ten inches, width at shoulder-seven inches and nicely tapered. The wood should be one half inch planed white pine, cedar, bass-wood or spruce.

After making sure that fur is clean by combing it out, place it on a stretcher with the fur side in. If you have ripped the front legs, insert a thin, pointed piece of wood through the hole where the leg reaches the body and tack flat, also tacking the legs and base of the tail tight but do not over-stretch. In about 48 hours, the time depending on the temperature, remove the pelt from the stretcher and replace it with fur out and again tack in place until dry.

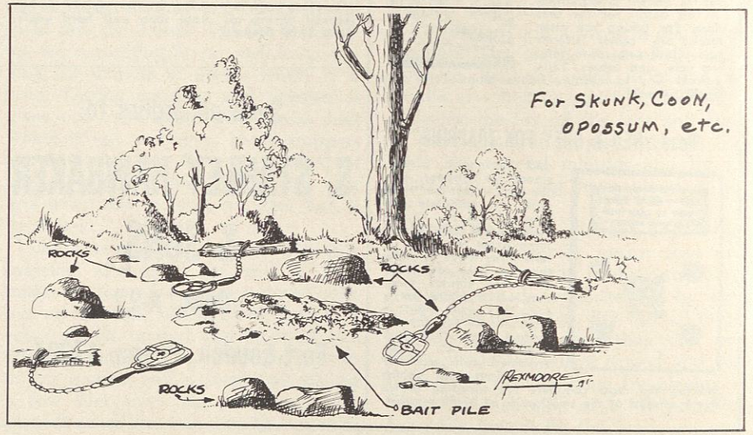
Trapline Tips
By George Clawson

Traps & Equipment

OCTOBER is the month to start geting your trapline equipment ready for another season and regardless of what animals you intend to trap or the number of traps you intend to use, each trapper needs certain items of basic equipment.

1. Wire cutting pliers.
2. Traps in suitable numbers and proper sizes for the kinds of animals you intend to catch.
3. Hand axe or hatchet- for cutting and driving stakes and also for use as a digging tool.
4. Small shovel or gardeners trowel for digging trap beds and for making bank pocket sets. I use a G.I. shovel with an extra long handle.
5. Gloves- light cotton or canvas for making dry land sets and elbow length rubber or plastic for making water sets.
6. Wire- soft and flexible, usually ranging in size from No. 9 to No. 14 for securing traps to stakes and drags and also for making drowning rigs.
7. Kneeling cloth- piece of old canvas, three to four feet square, for use in making sets for wary animals, also very useful in carrying dirt away from buried sets.
8. Trap pan covers- 6 to 8 inch square of light canvas, with a slit cut from one edge to the center. The slit lets the trigger fly free when the trap springs.
9. Dirt Sifter- made from ⅛th inch screen wire- for use in covering buried traps for fox and coyotes.
10. Back pack or pack basket- light to carry but with room for lots of equipment.

TRAP SIZES. All veteran trappers have their own preference as to the size and type of traps for catching different kinds of animals but a beginner, until he gets the experience to find out what works best for him, will do best by using the sizes that are recommended by trap manufacturers.



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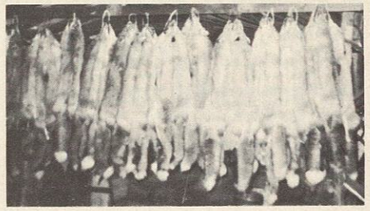

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All traps should be kept free of rust and in good working condition. Weak springs or warped jaws should either be repaired or replaced and chains should be checked at frequent intervals and any bad links should be replaced and any rough or pitted spots, and particularly those where metal rubs against metal, should be smoothed out with either a file or a wire brush.

When an animal steps on the pan of a trap, several things start to happen. The pan drops down releasing the trigger. The trigger flies up releasing the jaws and the spring flies up, forcing the jaws to snap shut. All of these operations depend on metal sliding on metal. This causes friction and friction causes drag, and if you have enough drag the action will be slowed until the trap is worthless. Slow trap action causes pinched toes and when you do this to a fox or a coyote you are making it real hard on yourself when you try to catch him again.

The best way that I know of to speed up trap action is to use some form of lubrication to the working parts. Oil makes a trap work well but it usually has an odor and also collects dirt and small stones that can interfere with the action. Wax is very good but since it has to be heated for proper application, it can create quite a fire hazard and it also has a habit of peeling off under extremely cold weather conditions. Two years ago, I decided to do some experimenting and I came up with a method that beats them all.

Acrylic floor finish, available on any grocer's shelf, and usually found in either handy spray cans or gallon sizes, is cheap, safe to use, odorless, easy to apply and above all, dries to a hard plastic finish that is as slick as grease and when the pan drops on a trap coated with this stuff, things are going to happen fast! For my own use, I prefer the liquid. I lay my traps in a flat pan and pour the liquid over them and then take them out and hang them up in the open air to dry. The entire operation is simple and easy and the end results are so satisfactory, that once you have tried it, you'll wonder how you ever got along without it.

Trapline Problems

By Jack G. Mell

WITHOUT a doubt, trapping is a body conditioner. Keeping in good shape is probably the greatest single benefit from trapping. Running, walking and exercising are the latest "in" things to do. Trappers have been doing this for some time. The hardships of the bad days that do come along during the trapping season are well worthwhile when you consider the benefits derived to your physical and mental well-being.

Dressing properly for the cold is very important. Many know the tricks of the trade. But it is surprising how many do not, especially the beginners. One good rule is that a couple or so lighter jackets are better than one heavy jacket. Wearing several articles of clothing is beneficial because the trapper is able to add or subtract clothing in accordance with the weather or the amount of exercise required to hike around the trapline without working up a sweat.

Sweating is bad for outdoorsmen in winter because it is difficult to keep warm when you become wet, and the moisture soaks into the air spaces that are necessary to trap heat for maximum warmth. Proper guidance from the knowledgeable clothing store clerks will help you to select the garments that are best for trapping and holding body heat.

There are times when the wind becomes so strong and raw that you feel like you're being torn apart. I've been on the ice during a blizzard when the snow was coming down so hard that it was difficult to see 30 yards in front of me. There was nothing to stop the wind from blowing full gale across the ice. Even though I backed into the wind to save my face from extreme cold and took short breaths to keep the ache in my lungs from the cold air at a minimum, I just couldn't keep the air from chilling my whole body. I was downright miserable.

After these cold, hard days I almost swear off trapping for good. But when the storms pass and the sun again warms the air, the hike around the trapline is a most uplifting experience and the hardships are soon forgotten or at least judged worthwhile.

Some type of windbreaker garment is necessary to help you through the windy or snowy days. Make sure the sleeves fit tight around the wrist in order to keep the wind from heading up your arms. A durable raincoat is probably the base item here as it fills the bill when you are caught in a cold rain too.

Raingear is a must when walking through brush after a wet snowfall. The snow hangs heavy on limbs and sticks to you when it lights on your shoulders. In short order, the snow melts into your clothing and keeping warm is now out of the question.

I place the illegal or outlaw trapper at the top of the list of unpleasant things that a trapper has to contend with. All the respectable trapper can do is learn to be more careful with the placement of his sets. Actually, a well concealed set is often a better set for the furbearers themselves.

Most all the trappers I encounter have run up against outlaw trappers who are trapping without permission or stealing traps, fur or both, from the honest trapper. Sometimes I really wonder if I should use the term "honest" at all.

When many trappers have their "heart to heart" discussions, most of the older trappers admit to a little thievery in the early periods of their trapping lives. But most outgrow it and feel it is not worthwhile as illegal trapping invites retaliation, and then they are spending needless time protecting themselves from others.

I have found that some of the trappers who do the most complaining about others, sneaking on my trapline, while they definitely know they are in the wrong — many even keep talking about how bad other trappers are abusing them. I don't say much about their trapping wire that I find above, below and between my traps while they are telling me how honest and good a trapper they are. Maybe you have this kind of character in your neck of the woods too.

However, the kind of trapper who really spoils it for most of us is the greedy thief. This guy isn't after the benefits of trapping that are good for the mind and body. He's just no darn good. Unfortunately, I know of more of them than I care to count and maybe you do also. But we have to put up with them if we are to enjoy our sport. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all these guys would have to trap together and spend their time trying to beat each other out of traps and fur?

Last season, I set traps in a backwater off of Diamond Lake. When I picked up my traps for the season, I had gathered in over 100 muskrats and several mink. I noticed two fellows in a '63 Chevy trapping close by. They even had several traps in the adjacent ponds and drains that I had permission to trap. Many of these sets were illegal as far as Michigan law was concerned. These trappers were probably the same guys that beat me to these ponds each year and trapped them without permission. I haven't pushed it too hard because I have plenty of trapping grounds, and who wants a running feud anyway.

After watching me attend several of my sets from their car that was parked across the pond, I guess they couldn't resist the temptation to check them also. Lucky for me that I noticed the car and took a little extra time to chop

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some phony holes in the ice and hide my traps a little better than usual. The following day these two fellows checked every hole they watched me chop and did manage to find a few of my traps. They also missed finding several other traps by inches.

Staying in the stream or out of snow is a great help in running your traps when trap stealers becomes a problem. It takes very little time to tack down a trap chain with a forked stake and press in another for the trapped animal to wrap around once they've dragged the trap into deeper water. But these sets are easy to spot by the fur thief. Using wire instead of a forked stake is a better bet in problem situations. You can actually make a better set in the long run too.

Streams change a good deal and trappers frequently use the same sets over and over, thus making the traps easy to find. Since I often use the same set and leave the wire attached to its point of anchor from one year to the next, setting an old trapline the following year is just a matter of wiring on the trap chain.

Wire is the best bet to use in water that is shallow where it is difficult to drown a muskrat or mink. Once the furbearer gets away from the shore and into the stream, it is difficult for the animal to get the leverage to pull loose.

I usually attach a wire, sometimes several feet in length depending on the size of the stream and where I want the animal to go—to an overhanging branch, post, wire fence, root or other object that is away from the stream bank if at all possible. Once the muskrat or mink steps into the trap, they will usually back away from where the trap was and into the stream. Once in deeper water, the trap tends to pull the animal down so that it drowns and does not twist off.

If the water is too shallow to make a good drowning set, or the stream is so small that the furbearer can return to shore, push additional stakes in the stream bottom for the animal to wrap around and thus be held away from shore. Without something solid to pull against or dig into, the animal should be in the trap when you make your rounds.

You'd be surprised at how little amount of water it takes to drown a furbearer when it can get tangled up and exhausted quickly. Many trappers I know use nothing but drowning wire sets.

Wire cuts down the number of missing traps if you are in an area frequented by the outlaw. Raccoons usually don't get far with the trap either if you use wire. Should the wire pull loose with a coon, it will probably become entangled in the growth close to the waterway.

It is best not to set traps where you can not be sure of drowning the 'rat or mink, unless you use a stop-loss trap. I was trapping a 40 acre lake a few years back when I began to catch muskrats that were missing toes and feet. I hadn't lost any animals so far because of a twist-off so I began to look along the banks of the pond.

I found traps in the runs that extended out of the water and onto the land where the muskrats had gone to dig in the roots of the land plants. A young lad had set traps on the dry land to catch the furbearer. I saw the boy a few minutes later, and he told me how much trouble he was having catching anything. He had only found one muskrat in his traps, but had a large collection of feet and toes.

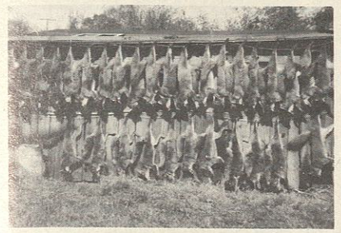
I was a little upset because the young trapper was setting traps on my line without permission, but more disturbed because he was damaging so many animals and this amounts to nothing more than a waste.

The young trapper was in junior high school and seemed like a pretty good kid. I gave in a little and showed him how I put my sets in water so the animals would drown. Then I picked up my traps for a hundred yards or so of shore line and told him that part of the pond was his to trap. I never had any trouble from the boy, and I did feel his gratitude every time he saw me.

This beginner eagerly told me of how he caught each of the dozen or so of the muskrats he trapped before the season drew to an end. He didn't miss another 'rat because of twist-offs that season either.

Actually, if the beginning trapper could spend a day watching the veteran trapper at work, he should acquire enough knowledge to avoid most of the

This unusual mink was a near white color when I cleaned and dried it.



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major pitfalls that the beginner falls into. Many trappers, including myself, are a little hesitant to invite the would-be trapper to tag along because you never know if he might be a potential problem to your traps as well as the traps of others.

Another problem trappers run into is finding enough time to trap a large or long trapline. To deal with this situation, trappers may set a waterway with a large number of traps and walk the line often during the first few days after the traps are set. In short order the majority of the fur can be caught, and only a few sets need to be left to catch the roving mink, moving muskrats and other unharvested animals. Using wire sets close to bridges, tiles or culverts by roadways is an excellent way to accomplish this.

A trap or two above and below the road bridge is easy to check by car. You usually don't have to leave the road unless something is in the trap. By trapping close to bridges, it is possible to cover a lot of territory with few traps and thus take more fur. Besides, it is necessary to leave some seed if you want a good harvest in coming years. A few animals left some distance from the traps near the road will probably stay there and become the core of the breeding stock for next year.

Those that trap without permission often use wire sets or other sets near the road because they can run them easily and not spend too much time at any one stop. By not getting out of their cars, except to remove fur, they can frequently trap and not be detected. Be sure to check the road area carefully if you are in country bothered by the outlaw trapper.

Panhandle Venture

(Continued from page 15)

mud with waxed paper crumpled under the pan, right where the wolves had been stepping across an overflow channel in the dam. It was a beautiful set that took two wolves and a blanket beaver before the freezeup. The wolves here, although large, are coarse and dark with low pelt value but the $50.00 bounty we received in this district helped considerably.

On our way back to the boat we made four sets for marten, two for mink and, on a tiny island in the mouth of the cove, an otter set which produced two otter and four buck mink during the next two months.

With 46 sets made and darkness coming on, we decided to call it a day and 25 minutes later I was in the cabin preparing supper as we rehashed the events of the day.

Rory carried the wood and water and washed the dishes with the optimism of youth (he was seventeen). We

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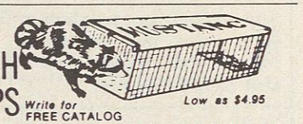

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decided to head south in the morning to Walker Cove, Rudyard Bay, across to Manzanita, north to Grace, then Channel Island and home again.

Before turning in I stepped outside to anxiously scan the sky, hoping to read tomorrow's weather forecast.

The river was black in the night as the small waves and current chuckled and whispered to each other. On the other side the mountains appeared lumpy and forbidding under stars that played hide and seek behind high, strung-out clouds. Just as I was ready to enter the cabin I heard a sound that had repeated nearly every night for the past six weeks. The sound hung on the cool night air, anguished and lost as it echoed against the mountains on either side of the river. While we stood in front of the cabin and listened, the eerie, savage music of a hunting pack of wolves suddenly reached a frantic crescendo and ceased.

The night was still then and we retired to dream, as do trappers everywhere, of full traps and a cabin lined with prime fur.

The next morning as the first faint, gray fingers of dawn reached across the sky we were on our way. The day proved to be much like the previous one with but two exceptions. While sign of fur bearers was abundant we only managed to make 41 sets. Then on our way home we stopped at Fish Point where we had made the first four sets the day before. Rory had a large dark marten and a young male mink while my sets were unproductive.

I certainly took a ribbing that evening regarding my ability as a trapper until finally in self defense I had to point out to him that his ability was mostly due to the instruction he had received from me.

We went to bed that night without hearing the wolves but the following morning while fixing breakfast we heard them again. I suppose you could call this chorus one of the fringe benefits of wilderness life. While I never tire of hearing it, the sound does at times give me a spooky feeling.

As we started out that morning the sky was overcast and we could see rain squalls out on the Behm. It was a "southeaster", blowing five to fifteen miles per hour and we expected heavy weather before the day was over.

Our first stop, Fish Point, produced a marten caught in my trail set for mink. This often happens along salt water in this country. The water was becoming so choppy that one of us had to remain at the wheel to back the boat off as soon as the other had stepped off the bow onto the rocks. If we hadn't the boat would have been pounded herself to pieces.

It was Rory's turn at the wheel as I stepped ashore where we had seen the otter. My set held a very large male otter full of fight but he was soon dispatched and the trap reset. Rory's set was undisturbed and we were soon on our way again. It was my turn to brag a little.

As we journeyed from one set location to another, the scenic beauty on all sides could neither be ignored or exaggerated. One almost unbroken chain of mountains running nearly due north and south on each side of the Behm, stark white with snow above the vast, dark forest on their steep slopes.

As the day progressed every stop produced fur, mostly marten, until late in the afternoon. With a filmy sun appearing tentatively between rain squalls, we approached the Chickamin and home with twelve marten, seven mink, three otter and one weasel.

While not the best trip of the season, it was far above our worst as I read from the diary that on the twentieth of December we caught only a weasel.

As time passed, we extended our salt water lines and set a line upriver from the cabin to Humpy, Coho and King Creeks, which we could tend when it was impossible to get out on the Behm.

It was on Humpy Creek that the wolverine first appeared and soon made our trips for fur merely a gesture. In our attempts to capture him we were often disappointed as the wet and heavy snow we were getting made it difficult to keep sets in working order. Finally, in desperation, Rory set a large Conibear and the next trip, there he was dead and waiting. It surprised us as we didn't realize the power of these traps. It was a valuable lesson as when a large wolverine began collecting tribute from our line on Coho creek, Rory soon caught him, while about a hundred feet away in a water set I had made for wolf was another one, very much alive and mad. Each was a large male, and, caught that close together, it was unusual to say the least. It proved to be the high spot of our winter trapline.

Time was barely noticed as it passed and the season was over, traps picked up and cached except the ones that would be used for wolf and beaver during March and April.

Next fall? I don't know. Rory plans on spending another winter in the wilderness before going back to school. We have talked to several "oldtimers" that seem to accept us as one of them now that we have spent a winter in the wilderness. They have told us of other areas that haven't been trapped for many years. One place intrigues us. Eighty miles of sheltered waterways with an abundance of fur, the tails that dreams are made of. Trappers dreams, that is.

Who knows? We just might be there. Is there a better place for an old man and a boy that are friends?

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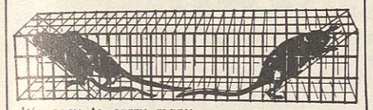

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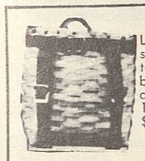

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Raw Fur Markets

IT is a good thing for the fur industry that President Nixon's devaluation of the dollar was announced right in the slow part of the season because it would kill trading. The biggest percentage of wild furs sell overseas and the effect of devaluation is to cause Europe to stop buying and study the situation.

The three countries that the devaluation was principally aimed at—Germany, Japan and Italy—are the principal buyers of American furs. Now if the effect of the 10% surcharge on imports into the U.S. is to slow down business in these countries they might not rush in and buy furs. That is the thinking of the trade today but what will happen by the time the season opens is anybody's guess. On the positive side, there is plenty of evidence that Russia and the eastern bloc nations are buying more furs and the devaluation of the dollar should be an asset as our furs will be cheaper.

The price freeze is supposed to be for 90 days which means it will end by the middle of November. However, the only effect that will have is on fur garments at retail. Furs are an agriculture product and thus in the raw not effected by the freeze. The industry will have to get a ruling from the Office of Economic Preparedness on whether there is a price ceiling on dressed furs or not.

The muskrat market is very well sold up and it is difficult to find offers around. Shippers are talking $2.00 and better on Eastern 'rats, basis the large and extra large, and while Illinois muskrats were sold at $2.05, basis the large and extra large, it is difficult to find many bids. On the other hand, due to the tightness of supplies, if somebody needs muskrats he is going to have to pay the price. Prices of today's muskrats are high in comparison to recent years but it should be remembered that during the 1920's, when furs were the fashion, muskrats were over $3.00 and the dollar then was a whole lot more valuable than it is now. In other words muskrats are really not expensive today.

There is a very good demand for fox both domestic and export but the main thing holding up business is the lack of offerings. While buyers are reported top at $12.00 for the big northwesterns, nothing can be had under $14.00 for the 1's and 2's and some are talking $15.00. Fox was a big item at the Leningrad sales recently.

There has been a lot of talk in the trade about some interest recently for wolf. There is a demand at high prices for the few lots available of good northwestern wolf of big size but there are only a comparatively few lots of these skins available.

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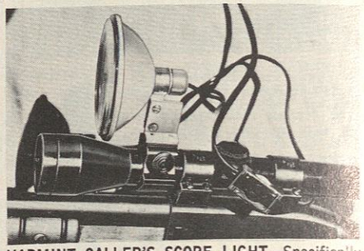

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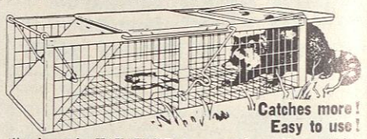

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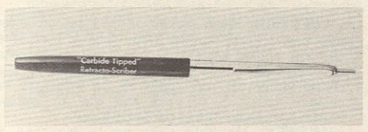

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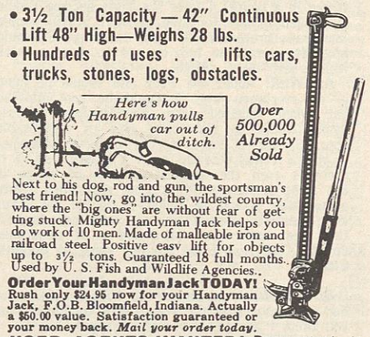

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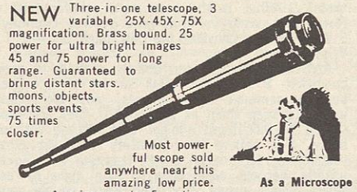

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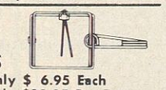

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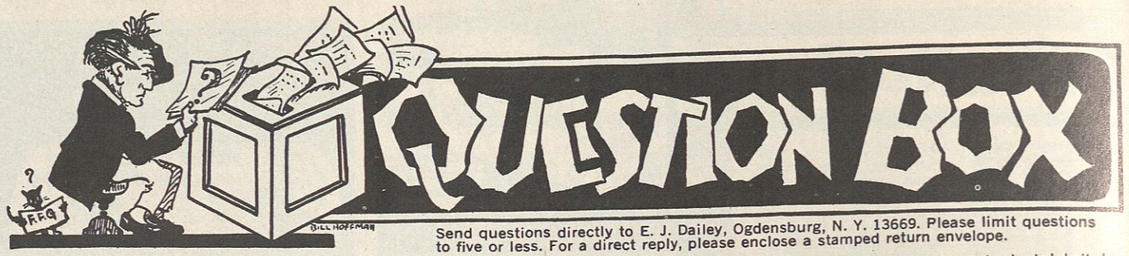

Send questions directly to E. J. Dailey, Ogdensburg, N. Y. 13669. Please limit questions to five or less. For a direct reply, please enclose a stamped return envelope.

QUESTION: What can I use during late Fall for fastening Fox traps other than a stake or drag? 2 I tried to catch muskrats in runways that had tunnels in them here and there but without success and would like to know the reason considering I know that the area is inhabited by muskrat?—D. L., N. Y.

ANSWER: The two pronged steel or iron drags is what is used at a time when ground frozen or in snow. 2 I assume these are merely Summer trails and not used by the 'rats during the trapping period.

QUESTION: Where can I obtain plans for building box type traps?—G. S., N. Y.

ANSWER: Our book "Deadfalls & Snares" price $1.50 from this magazine not only explains how to build them, but how to use them.

QUESTION: What is the correct size trap for catching and holding otter? 2 Can I expect to find otter around small ponds?—A. A., Fla.

ANSWER: Number three is a favorite size of many otter trappers, other prefer number four. 2 If the ponds have fish in them, it is possible otter may visit them as they are long travellers.

QUESTION: How are auxiliary springs attached to longspring traps? 2 If I placed two such springs on my number one and one and a half traps, would that double their strength? 3 I make my own sun rendered fish oil and wonder if I can use the bones and thick part for 'coon bait after I strain off the liquid? 4 If so, how can I keep it in good condition? 5 After storing my fish-oil several months a kind of slime forms on top of it and I wish to know how to prevent this? 6 I have my fox bait buried under ground but when Winter comes the ground will be frozen and I will be unable to get at it, so wish to know what to do? 7 Where can I sell skunk scent glands? 8 What are their value? 9 How prepared and shipped?—

ANSWER: The tension is released and they are then placed inside the regular springs and driven tightly into the small end and the tension will hold them there. One auxiliary spring to each single spring trap is enough. 3 You could and it will also attract skunk and 'possum. 4 You can add preservative obtained from most trapper supply dealers. 5 Same answer as four. 6 It should be dug up before ground freezes hard. 7 Nearly all lure and scent dealers will buy them. 8 About fifty cents each. 9 Should be removed carefully and placed in metal or glass containers with tight caps and shipped in good carton, well wrapped in crumpled up newspapers, and shipped parcel post or United Parcel Post.

QUESTION: Should Conibear traps be set flat or stood up when setting in a trail? 2 Should the dirt-hole set for raccoon be made in the woods? 3 Where should the trap and bait and lure be placed when making a 'coon set on a log that has one end in water and one on land? 4 What is a good 'coon set along a stream rather than the crossing log set? 5 Are fleshing tools supposed to be sharpened, if so how? 6 Will it injure a fox pelt if shot in the head with a .22 short?—J. W., N. Y.

ANSWER: Should always be staked upright. 2 If there are wild cherries, beech nuts, wild grapes, acorns or other natural raccoon food in a woods, it is alright to trap there, otherwise better trap the streams, swamps and marshes. 3 Place the trap in a notch about half way from the dry end to the water and place bait and lure so animal must attempt to take the bait and will step in the trap. Cover traps set on logs with moss. 4 Locate a hole in the bank or dig one and place fish or flesh in it, add scent or lure and conceal trap in front of hole. 5 Some of them arrive unsharpened and can be sharpened by the aid of a flat file on an angle about the same as found on household shears. 6 No, but if the fox bleeds from the bullet hole, hang it up by the hind feet until bleeding stops, otherwise blood may enter the fur and do a bad job on it.

QUESTION: How long must a contaminated but waxed fox trap have to be aired out before using? 2 Does wax hold foreign odors? 3 Would log-wood crystals become contaminated if stored in a house? 4 Does fox urine become rancid or spoiled if kept for long periods? 5 Will double jaw traps prevent mink from escaping? 6 Would muskrat or raccoon lure be apt to drive a mink from a set?—M. S., Mich.

ANSWER: About one week and should be hung in an evergreen tree. 2 Could be contaminated but when received from your trapper supply dealer would be clean and free of undesirable odor. 3 Not if kept in the original container in which it was received or in a plastic bag. 4 If there is even the smallest amount of water in fox urine it may spoil in time and when fresh, preservative should be added. 5 Double jaw traps were made to prevent animals from gnawing off their feet under trap jaws and mink sometimes do that, but such traps are not made at present. 6 No.

QUESTION: I am unable to hold fox in number two longspring traps and wish to know what you think I am doing wrong?—Trapper, Pa.

ANSWER: Your traps may be too old and with weak springs or you may be setting them so the animal comes in over the jaws instead of between them or the pan-action may be too light or covering too deep and you will do better with number two Coil Spring traps.

QUESTION: What price could be obtained for young fox pups? 2 Is there much demand for them? 3 What is the best snow set for fox? 4 How can I catch fox that have become trap-shy? 5 What do you consider the best mink set—I. T., Wisc.

ANSWER: Perhaps ten dollars each if in good condition. 2 I do not think so for since rabies became common among foxes, not too many wants to keep them as pets and if they are kept should be inoculated against that disease without delay. 3 I believe the urinating post set most productive for deep snow trapping. 4 Foxes usually become wise only to the type of set where they sprung traps or were caught and escaped or by poorly made sets, so the thing to do is to make new sets that have not been used recently in your area. 5 I believe that more mink are annually trapped in the spring branch feeder stream set throughout the U. S. and Canada than in any other.

QUESTION: In an area of low muskrat population, would it pay to transport some natural 'rat food into such section? 2 When traps are dyed with logwood extract, will they have a shine on them or an odor? 3 Can fish flavored house cat food be used to bait 'coon and 'possum? —R. M., Kans.

ANSWER: If the muskrat shortage is caused by lack of natural food, then it would pay to do some seeding and transplanting. 2 Very new traps with but a light coating of rust may come out rather shiny and what odor comes from the logwood is natural wood type that will not scare anything but will overcome steel odor. 3 Some have used such bait with success.

QUESTION: When skinning a fox, how should the front legs be handled?—B. P., Pa.

ANSWER: A good way is to rip the legs to the body then insert some thin, wooden or plastic pointed strips about like a weasel stretcher and tack the legs flat, do not however leave any feet on the pelt.

QUESTION: If a log set were made for muskrat, mink and 'coon, what size and type trap would be suitable? 2 How is the outlook for fur prices for the coming season?—M. B., Mo.

ANSWER: The No.1½ Coil Spring or No 2½ longspring would be suitable. 2 There is not a heavy carry over of last season's goods and that usually creates a good market the following season.

QUESTION: When making the buried bait box and coyote set, what can be used for painting the trap that will cause the animals to dig into them?—W. R., N. D.

ANSWER: In the past rancid lard or fox oil was used but I believe most modern trappers are painting their traps with liquid fox-coyote bait.

QUESTION: Are dirt-hole sets effective on raccoon? 2 What size trap do you recommend for catching and holding 'coon? 3 Are dirt-hole sets along a stream effective on mink? 4 What is a blind set?—D. R., N. Y.

ANSWER: Yes but should be baited with flesh or fish and raccoon lure used. 2 Most trappers prefer No. 2 traps, but a good one and a half longspring or coil spring will also hold them. 3 Can be used, but old holes usually found along stream banks are considered superior or you can dig imitation muskrat den entrances previous to trapping time and at least a few feet from high water. 4 A blind set is a trail set or any set without bait, however lure near the trap will increase the catch.

QUESTION: Which of the following is the best place to trap muskrats, lakes, stream, marshes or swamps?—B. W., N. Y.

ANSWER: The biggest catches of muskrats is made in marshes but often there is good 'rat trapping along streams and around lakes and in swamps.

QUESTION: I have a pair of snowshoes that needs relacing and wish to know where I can obtain the proper information for doing that including the material for relacing?—P. M., N. H.

ANSWER: Our book "Camp & Trail Methods" supplies that information step by step, also explains how to build boats and canoes, toboggans, camps, etc, price $1.50 postpaid.

QUESTION: When making a float set on a log, how can I keep the log from tipping over when the 'rat climbs upon it? 2 Can I expect to catch raccoon in box type traps? 3 Are chunks of carp considered good 'coon bait? 4 Do muskrats eat calamus roots? 5 Is there any way to improve muskrat trapping in a creek?—D. M., Pa.

ANSWER: Muskrats swim up to logs and do not tip them over when climbing upon them. 2 You may catch one now and then, particularly young 'coon. 3 Yes. 4 Calamus is sweet-flag and a favorite food of muskrats. 5 Sometime a dam to maintain a water level will help very much and cattails, sweet-flag, marsh root, wapato, and three square grass could be planted.

QUESTION: What size and type trap available at present would prove good for fox and coyote? 2 Why are number three or number four longspring traps seldom recommended for fox and coyote? 3 Is the one and a half double coil spring trap a good mink trap? 4 Is the number two Coil Spring traps a good fox trap? 5 Where can I buy rubber or plastic coated gloves for making fox sets? 6 When making a fox set where a bob-cat might be taken, what trap do you suggest—M. J., N. Y.

ANSWER: The number three or four Oneida Jump is the favorite of many for trapping the animals you mention in deep snow. 2 They are harder to conceal than underspring traps but do hold animals very well. 3 An excellent mink trap and will also hold raccoon and where soil light, some prefer them for fox. 4 They are the favorite of a great many fox trappers. 5 Are sold by practically all trapper supply houses. 6 Any trap suitable for fox trapping is also ok for 'cats.

QUESTION: What can I place on beaver castors while drying to keep away moths and bugs that is not odorous and not harmful to humans or animals?—G. B., Nebr.

ANSWER: Dust them with rotenone garden dust available at garden supply stores or mail order seed companies.

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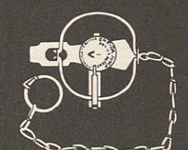

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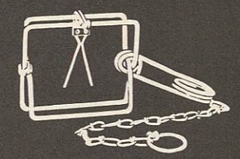

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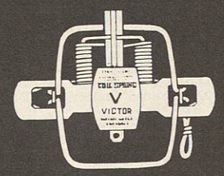

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Trappers—Complete line of trapping supplies. Blake & Lamb, Onedia, Victor and Newhouse traps, packbaskets, snowshoes, knives, books, wooden and steel fur forms. Deer lure and dog training scents, baits and scents for all furbearers such as fox, coyote, cat, coon, etc., $1.25 per bottle plus postage. Send for catalog. O. L. Butcher's Trapping Supplies, Shushan, N. Y. 12873 (2)

Trappers—If you want fast service and fine quality supplies, order from us. Blake, Victor, Newhouse and Montgomery traps, snowshoes, packbaskets and the leading brands of lures. Send 25¢ for catalog. We buy ginseng and metals. Order before prices rise. Northwest Trappers Supply, Box 408, Owatonna, Minn. 55060 Phone 451-7607

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Wanted: Old animal traps, leg hold, killer, rat, mouse, old balls. Catalogs, pamphlets, literature. Broken traps if pan clear legible. Trap guns, smokers devices concerning trapping. Watch fobs. Send description and best price to Floyd Rainey, 3467 Saranac Dr., Sharpsville, Pa. 16150

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Trappers—Send for simple, illustrated instructions on stakeless, multiple catch trap set. Very successful for fox, coyote, skunk, etc. Little time involved. Check sets from a distance. Price $5.00. Henry Vander Esch, Hawarden, Iowa 51023

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Collectors Attention: New discontinued Blake & Lamb No. 40 Double Underspring Traps. Selling for $3.95 each plus 75¢ postage. Mid-States Fur Company, So. Hwy 75, Luverne, Minn. 56156 (11)

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Pelting and Fleshing Tips. Dozens of valuable hints, tips, ideas and secrets on fur handling. Copyrighted. $1.00 postpaid. Blackhawk, 202 Boiling Springs Road, Danville, Ill. 61832

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Trappers: Catalog listing traps, lures, animal calls, pack baskets, fur forms, knives, wire, books, etc. Prompt service. Catalog—25¢. Walter Carr, 2868 Elm St., Dighton, Mass. 02715 (12)

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Trappers' Special: Low prices and same day service on new steel traps and fur stretchers. Check our prices. We can save you money. Write: Ace Hardware, Lafayette, Ind. 47901 (11)

Catch-All Wire muskrat trap. Catch up to four without resetting-$2.60 or two for $5.00, postpaid. Ray Wilson, 38 So. 17th Ave., Coatsville, Pa. 19320 (11)

Antique and current used traps for sale. Also wanted to buy used traps. Send quarter for list. David Stuhr, R-1, Box 203, Union Grove, Wis. 53182

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C. J. Verduin's Animal Lures and baits-$1.10 per oz., postpaid. Free literature. C. J. Verduin, R-1, Madrid, N.Y. 13660

Trapline Ramblings from preacher-trapper. Valuable hints, sets, spiritual help. For printing and postage-25¢. Rev Roy C Johnson, R-2, Hammond. N.Y. 13646

Canadian Trappers—Dailey's, Northland Lures—$1.25 per oz., any animal. Pack baskets, traps, books. Send dime for price list. Elmer Meek, R-1, Williamstown, Ont., Canada. 11)

Trappers Catalog—20¢, listing trapping supplies, game animal calls and lures. Verleen, Box 15, Nashville, Kans. 67112 (3)

Fast Service On Traps, lures and trapping supplies. Catalog-25¢. Scott's Trapping Supplies, R-3, Ashland, Ohio 44805 (2)

International Trappers Club. Quarterly Magazine, information, dues $3.00. Write Fur Takers, 3057 Nettie, St. Louis, Mo. 63129

Wanted: Used traps, any condition. Kenneth Schultz, 5645 Hwy. V, Caledonia, Wis. 53108 (11)

Brook Park precision crafted heavy duty skinning gambrel and trap grapples. **At Supply Dealers.** (11)

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Wanted: One #6 Newhouse trap. Send price and condition first letter. Dennis Bunnell, 38 Greenwich St., Belmont, N.Y. 14813

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Wanted—Trailzend, Save-a-leg Eclipse, Austin humane killer trap. John Gnad, Ellis, Kans. 67637

For Sale. Lifetime collection of traps, magazines, etc. 35¢ for list. John Barbee, Troy, Mo. 63379

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Dailey's and Hawbaker's lures. Crawford's Trapping Supplies, RR-1, Addison, Mich. 49220

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Wildcrafters World #65. Published in fall, 1971. Price-$1.00. Homesteaders-Landcrafters Newsletter 35¢ copy, 6 issues-$2.00. Wildcrafters Publications-A, R-3, Box 118, Rockville, Ind. 47872 (3)

Pollens of Weeds such as pigweed, ragweed, sages, lambsquarter and many others. Sell for $10.00 to $50.00 per ounce. Send stamp for particulars. Bertie Edwards, Hubbell, Nebr. 68375

Snowshoes: Modified bearpaw, lightweight, warp proof, polyurethane construction, nylon bindings, year guarantee. Ideal for trappers, hunters. $19.00 pair, postpaid. Falcon Company, Jennerstown, Pa. 15547 (11)

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Songwriting Simplicity & Technology-$1.10. Spanish Guitar Simplicity & Technology-$2.25. Great Lakes Country Roundup, Vol 1-35¢. All books postpaid. Tom Dixon, 1317 Emery St., Hancock, Mich. 49930

Extra Income—Make $1.00 per sale selling engraved metal Social Security plates. Free sales kit. Engravaplates, Box 10460-7105A, Jacksonville, Fla. 32207 (TF)

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Country Records, Pop Records, Tape Cartridges. Fiddle tunes, Blue Grass, etc. Free circular. Uncle Jim O'Neal, Box A-FFG, Arcadia, Calif. 91006 (1)

House Painters, do-it-yourselfers. Use "Weld-on-Paint". Never peels. Interior, exterior. Details: Burger's, 3918 33rd St., Detroit, Mich. 48210 (11)

Thanks To Our Past Customers. It was a pleasure serving you. We will no longer be manufacturing Penasa. Penasa Laboratories, P.O. Box 642, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440 (3)

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Homebrewed Wines, beers, liquors, 200 recipes, instruction book—$1.00. E&G Sales, Box 18384-B, Memphis, Tenn. 38118

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Winemakers—Free illustrated supply catalog of yeasts, equipment, recipes. Winemaker, Box 18223-F, Indianapolis, Ind. 46218 (12)

Nazi War Souvenirs—Illustrated catalog-$3.00 cash, includes Nazi gift: Guardhouse, Box 8035-F, Milwaukee, Wis.

Fishing, Hunting News, Read Midwest Outdoors-$1.00 for 4 monthly issues. Box 426F, Downers Grove, Ill. 60515 (2)

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Country Store catalog—35¢. Bargains galore! Foxes-FF, Box 914, Memphis, Tenn. 38101

Thirty Large Cotton Towels-$2.98. Lassiters, 16041B, Richmond, Va. 23222.

Winemakers Yeast, Recipes and catalog - 25¢. Kraus, Box 451-FF, Nevada, Mo. 64772 (11)

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Fox Standard. Land, water	$1.50	Wildcat. 3—½ oz. bottles	$1.75
Fox Matrix. Land, snow	$1.50	Wildcat. 1 oz. bottle	$1.50
Mink Regular. Fall & winter	$1.50	Muskrat. Spring & fall	$1.25
Mink Special. Late fall & winter	$1.50	Raccoon. All season	$1.25
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Marten. General use	$1.25	Skunk. All season	$1.25
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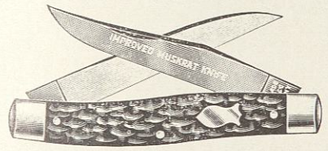

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Nothing like this amazing freeze-proof method has ever been offered to the American Trapper. I recently bought this copyrighted method from the family of the late Gordon McGowan. I was a personal friend of Gordon and can only say we lost a great trapper when he passed on last summer. As Gordon stated before, he doesn't use calcium chloride, peat moss, fullers earth or other soil conditioners. This is a natural item and the most elusive fox, coyote, wolf, bobcat, mink will come unafraid. Just use your favorite type of dirt set and when fixed the McGowan way you're in business when other trappers have pulled for the season. Will stand 2 or 3 heavy rains and each time it can drop to 10 to 15 below zero and the dirt will fluff back dry and natural. This method is copyrighted in the U.S. and Canada but I still reserve the right to refuse to sell to certain people and in certain areas. In keeping with the McGowan policy, this method not for sale in the State of Maine. For further information, write to Oscar Cronk, Jr., Wiscasset, Me. 04578

McGOWAN FOX BOOK

I feel this is one of the better fox books on the market today. Gordon McGowan was a specialist on the fox and you can be sure he has left nothing out. He covers land, water, snow with scores of sets. Tells mistakes commonly made by the amateur, how to overcome them. How to prepare in advance of the season. To become a professional you must know these things. He has one trick that is worth the price of the book, I have never before seen this in print. You will have the edge on your competitor when you learn the secrets in this easy to follow instruction book. In the old days this information would have cost you $100.00, but now it's yours for the low price of $5.00 postpaid.

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